

NEW BEGINNING

Shutdown over, Washington sputters back to life

A visitor stands by the Lincoln Memorial early Thursday morning in Washington, Oct. 17, 2013. President Barack Obama and Congress ended a 16-day shutdown Thursday, clearing the way for federal agencies to again deliver services, reopen public facilities and welcome hundreds of thousands of furloughed employees returning to work.

(Chris Bickford/The New York Times)

MICHAEL D. SHEAR
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WASHINGTON - The U.S. government sputtered back to life Thursday after President Barack Obama and Congress ended a 16-day shutdown, clearing the way for federal agencies to again deliver services, reopen public facilities and welcome hundreds of thousands of furloughed employees returning to work.

The political standoff in the nation's capital formally

ended just minutes before a midnight deadline when the government's ability to borrow money would have expired. Republicans conceded defeat Wednesday by agreeing to finance the operations of government until Jan. 15 and raise the nation's debt limit through the middle of February. The Senate passed the legislation first, and the House followed around 10:15 p.m.

The agreement paves the way for another series of budget negotiations in

the weeks ahead, even as conservative Republicans in the House and Senate vowed to renew their fight for cuts in spending and changes to the Affordable Care Act.

Just hours after Obama signed the temporary spending measure into law around 12:30 a.m., agencies in Washington and across the country prepared to reopen offices, public parks, research projects and community programs that have been

mothballed for more than two weeks. The government's top personnel officer announced that officials should restart normal functions "in a prompt and orderly manner."

In Washington, the city's subway trains were once again packed with federal workers streaming in from the suburbs, government IDs dangling from lanyards around their necks. At the Lincoln Memorial, tourists waited nearby as a park ranger cut down the signs

announcing that the memorial was closed.

Robert Lagana said Thursday morning he was eager to get back to his job at the International Trade Commission.

"It beats climbing the walls, wondering where your next paycheck is going to be and how you're going to make your bills," Lagana said as he made his way to his office near L'Enfant Plaza.

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Smoke rises from a fire near Lithgow, west of Sydney, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013. Nearly a hundred wildfires are burning across Australia's New South Wales state, more than a dozen of which are out of control, as unseasonably hot temperatures and strong winds fanned flames across the parched landscape.

(AP Photo/New South Wales Rural Fire Service)

100 wildfires rage across populous Australian state

SYDNEY (AP) — Authorities are assessing the damage from more than a hundred wildfires burning across Australia's most populous state Friday, razing an unknown number of homes and forcing the evacuations of hundreds of residents, officials said.

Fighter fighters were assisted by milder conditions Friday after unseasonably hot temperatures and strong winds fanned flames across the parched landscape and threatening towns surrounding Sydney, Rural Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said. But 36 of more than 100 fires continued to burn out of control.

He said assessment teams and police were moving into the destruction zones Friday morning in search of survivors and victims. There have been no reports of injuries or death.

Blue Mountains Mayor Mark Greenhill visited the devastated village of Winmalee, on Sydney's western fringe, where the risk had subsided after some streets were almost entirely razed.

"It's been an awful 24 hours for the Blue Mountains" region, Greenhill told Nine Network television.

"We've lost possibly scores of homes, I can't put the number closer than that," he said. "In the area that we're standing at at the moment, we're talking

about 40 to 50 homes (destroyed) which is just awful." The fire front was still visible from Winmalee on Friday, but had moved toward the neighboring village of Springwood where homes were being evacuated.

"The pace of this fire was just unbelievable," Greenhill said.

Hundreds of residents spent Thursday night in dozens of evacuation centers in the Blue Mountains and elsewhere in New South Wales. Most were unaware of the fate of their homes.

New South Wales Premier Barry O'Farrell said many would be frustrated by being refused permission to return to their homes on Friday because of the ongoing danger.

Rogers said the fires could not be extinguished before high temperatures and strong winds are forecast to return on Sunday and Monday.

Temperatures west of Sydney were forecast to reach around 23 degrees Celsius (73 degrees Fahrenheit) on Friday — around 10 degrees Celsius (18 degrees Fahrenheit) cooler than on Thursday. Gentle breezes had replaced strong winds. "It's calmed down a lot since yesterday, but make no mistake: we've got thousands of kilometers of fire front that we are faced with trying to deal with," Rogers told Nine Network. □

Canada:

PM heads to Brussels to conclude EU deal

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper headed to Brussels on Thursday to conclude a free trade deal with the European Union, as Canada seeks to diversify its trade away from the United States.

One thorny issue surrounding the deal was overcome Thursday when Canada announced it would lift visa requirements for Czech nationals.

The Czech Republic, which had threatened to block the free trade deal over the visa issue, welcomed the announcement. Canada reimposed visa requirements for Czech citizens in 2007 because of concerns over an excessive

plete negotiations. His office said he will meet with the president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso.

Yves Leduc, director of international trade for the Dairy Farmers of Canada, said he's been told by a Canadian government official that an agreement in principle has been reached and that the European Union's 28 members and Canada's 10 provinces have to approve it.

Canada has agreed to permit a doubling of the EU quota on cheese exports to Canada in exchange for greater access for Canadian beef and pork producers. Leduc said Canada's cheese industry is angry because it threatens the fine cheese market in Canada.

establish a beachhead as the bloc embark on separate free trade talks with the U.S. If a U.S.-EU trade deal is reached, it could be the world's largest free trade pact.

Canada hopes to become less reliant on the U.S., the country's largest trading partner. Canada's finance minister has said despite Europe's struggles, Canada remains very interested because the EU is still the largest market in the world in terms of the size of its middle class. The Canada-EU deal would make it easier for Canadian companies to invest in, and sell to, the 17-member EU with its 500 million consumers.

In 2012, Canada was the EU's 12th most important trading partner, account-



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, right, departs for Europe with International Trade Minister Ed Fast, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013 in Ottawa. Harper planned to travel to Brussels on Thursday to conclude a free trade deal with the European Union. An EU official said the European Union and Canada hope to conclude the free trade deal in the "coming days." (AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Adrian Wyld)

number of asylum seekers. Canada's Ambassador to Prague, Otto Jelinek, said his government wants to re-establish visa-free status "in the earliest possible term." EU trade spokesman John Clancy said in an e-mail that the European Union and Canada hope to conclude the free trade deal in the "coming days."

Harper posted on his official Twitter account that Canada will "soon" com-

"For the dairy farmers of Canada this is a deal that is unacceptable. We're more than disappointed," Leduc said. "It will allow significant access of high quality or fine cheeses into Canada, a segment that is supplied by the smaller or medium size cheese factories in Canada."

Harper has said that a free trade deal between his country and the European Union could help the EU

ing for 1.8 percent of the EU's external trade. The EU was Canada's second biggest partner with about 9.5 percent of external trade. The value of the bilateral trade in goods between the EU and Canada was \$84 billion in 2012, according to the EU. The EU says machinery, transport equipment and chemicals dominate the bloc's exports to Canada. □

L.A.X. airport blast suspect to be charged

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

A suspect in dry ice bottle blasts at Los Angeles International Airport will be charged with two counts of possessing a destructive device in a public place, the district attorney's office said Thursday.

Dicarlo Bennett, 28, will be arraigned later in the day at the airport branch courthouse. He works as a baggage handler for an airport service company. Bennett was being held on \$1 million bail.

No one was injured in the blasts Sunday that authorities say were done for amusement in areas of the airport only accessible to employees.

The charges are punishable by up to six years in jail.

Airport officials changed their policy on how dry ice is discarded after an abandoned container of dry ice from a plane was used to fashion and explode the bombs.

The airport will now require employees to return dry ice — often used to keep food fresh — to a warehouse and not leave it out on the tarmac, said Los Angeles Airport Police Chief Patrick Gannon.

Airport officials plan to meet with law enforcement authorities in the coming days to examine other potential security enhancements at one of the nation's busiest airports.

A 20-ounce (566-gram) plastic bottle packed with dry ice exploded in an employee bathroom and another blew up on the airport's tarmac Sunday. An employee found a third unexploded plastic bottle still expanding Monday on the tarmac.

Investigators believe the bombs were set "out of a desire to construct and experience a device exploding," said Los Angeles police Lt. John Karle. He called it foolish and negligent behavior. □

Shutdown over, Washington sputters back to life

Continued from front

But he also expressed frustration with lawmakers who held up the budget over the new health care law. "They really need to come up with a law where this never happens again," he said, adding later, "You just feel like you don't have a voice."

The Smithsonian Institution announced via Twitter that its museums would reopen to the public Thursday and that visitors would be invited back to the National Zoo beginning Friday. The popular "Panda Cam" should once again begin broadcasting live streams

closed and the National Park Service website is not being maintained."

Some federal agencies began offering employees guidance for their return to work. A memorandum from officials at the Department of the Interior encouraged returning workers to check their email and voicemail, fill out their timecards and to "check on any refrigerators and throw out any perished food." The Interior memo hinted at how long it will take for the government to be fully functioning. It said snack bars at the main Interior building would be open Thursday, but the cafeteria would

in government activities has imposed hardships on you, your families, and the people we serve."

Across the globe, investors shrugged at the decision by U.S. politicians to end the shutdown. European stocks dipped Thursday as investors appeared more interested in other corporate news than the political drama playing out in Washington. Wall Street appeared set for a lower opening. "People are 'selling the news,'" said David Thebault, head of quantitative sales trading at Global Equities. "The agreement was priced in stocks, and now that it's

the country would not get unemployment under control unless lawmakers and the president "get their act together." A longtime critic of the Fed's efforts to buy bonds to stimulate the economy, Fisher said that a long-term solution is unclear. "Kicking the can down the road for a few months will not solve the pathology of fiscal misfeasance that undermines our economy and threatens our future," Fisher said, adding that the Fed's stimulus cannot "offset the rot that is destroying our fiscal house and the blight it spreads over our economy."



President Barack Obama speaks after the U.S. government opened at a news conference in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Oct. 17, 2013. President Barack Obama and Congress ended a 16-day shutdown Thursday, clearing the way for federal agencies to again deliver services, reopen public facilities and welcome hundreds of thousands of furloughed employees returning to work.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

of the zoo's newest panda cub by Thursday afternoon, the zoo announced. But how quickly other parts of the government will resume normal operations was not immediately clear. By dawn, few government websites had been updated to reflect the government's new status. A banner at the top of the National Park Service website still read: "Because of the federal government shutdown, national parks are

be closed. Shuttles between Interior buildings in the capital will not be operating, the memorandum said.

"We want to welcome you back and do everything possible to ease this transition," Rhea Suh, the department's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget, said in the memo. "We appreciate your sacrifices through these difficult times and we understand that the lapse

behind us and political risk has been removed, investors are offloading portfolio protection."

Financial officials in the United States expressed deep skepticism about the likelihood that the parties in Washington would reach a better outcome as they seek a broader budget deal by the end of the year. Richard Fisher, the president of the Dallas Federal Reserve, told the Reuters news agency that

In Washington, politicians immediately began the post-shutdown posturing as they braced for another confrontation over spending, taxes and health care in the budget negotiations that are set to begin in the days and weeks ahead.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., urged his party colleagues to make sure that those talks did not lead to another high-stakes battle that put the government at risk again. □



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Trial opens for US doctor accused of killing wife

PAUL FOY

Associated Press

PROVO, Utah (AP) — A former U.S. doctor accused of hounding his wife to get a face-lift so he could kill her with a lethal combination of prescription drugs acted erratically the day she died and claimed she had wanted the surgery, prosecutors said Thursday in opening statements at the murder trial.

In addition, Martin MacNeill told fellow inmates after his arrest that his wife was a "bitch;" he was glad she was dead; and authorities couldn't prove he killed her, prosecutor Sam Pead told jurors.

Prosecutors have said the killing was the climax of a twisted plot by MacNeill to carry on an affair with his mistress, who MacNeill invited to his wife's funeral and asked to marry him weeks later.

The case has shocked the small Utah town of Provo, a Mormon community 45 miles (72 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City, and captured national attention because the defendant was a doctor.

Pead depicted a scene of bizarre behavior that began when MacNeill dis-

covered his listless wife in a bathtub and called authorities to his house in April 2007.

"Why did she have the surgery?" Martin MacNeill yelled in front of police and paramedics, according to Pead. "Why did she take all of those medications? I told her not to do it. I'm a doctor. She's dead. I've been a bishop. I pay tithing, and this is the way you repay me?"

MacNeill was referring to his former leadership position in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and his payment of dues. He has since surrendered his medical license.

Defense attorneys told jurors that Michele MacNeill died from heart disease, not from anything Martin MacNeill had done.

"Martin has made poor choices in his life. He had affairs during his marriage," defense lawyer Susanne Gustin said in her opening statement. "Shortly after his wife passed away, he brought Gypsy Willis into his home," Gustin said. "We may think he's a total jerk and disgusting. And that's natural. But decide this case on the facts rather than the emotion."

MacNeill, 57, was charged in August 2012, nearly five years after his former beauty queen wife was found in

neurological drugs for her recovery that left her comatose in the bathtub. However, medical exam-

from a heart disorder, then changed the finding to undetermined.

The MacNeills had eight



Martin MacNeill appears in Judge Derek Pullan's 4th District Court for his trial in Provo, Utah, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013. MacNeill, a former doctor, is charged with murder in the 2007 death of his wife. MacNeill, 57, was charged in August 2012, nearly five years after his former beauty queen wife, Michele MacNeill, was found in the bathtub at the couple's Pleasant Grove home, about 35 miles south of Salt Lake City. Prosecutors said they will try to prove that MacNeill got a plastic surgeon to prescribe a powerful set of neurological drugs for her recovery that left her comatose in the bathtub.

(AP Photo/Al Hartmann)

the couple's home.

Prosecutors said they will try to prove that MacNeill got a plastic surgeon to prescribe a powerful set of

iners couldn't determine how 50-year-old Michele MacNeill died. They initially ruled she died of natural causes, possibly

children, and their oldest daughters have been outspoken in their belief that their father killed their mother. □

NY police say teen girls had human remains in bag

NEW YORK (AP) — A security guard on the lookout for shoplifters searched two teenage girls as they left a Manhattan lingerie shop Thursday afternoon, and discovered one of them was carrying what appeared to be a fetus in her bag, police said.

Both girls are 17. One was hospitalized and the other

was being questioned at a police precinct, authorities said. The medical examiner's office was performing an autopsy on the apparent human remains found inside the bag.

The girls were shopping at a Victoria's Secret lingerie store in midtown Manhattan, said police, who were called to the scene. Au-

thorities are trying to determine if one girl gave birth in the store, or if she had been carrying the remains with her.

She apparently told detectives she delivered a day earlier, but didn't know what to do with the remains, police said. It wasn't clear whether the fetus was alive or dead when

delivered.

Victoria's Secret is owned by Columbus, Ohio-based Limited Brands. A spokeswoman for the company referred calls to the NYPD. Police are also investigating whether the girls had actually stolen anything from the store, or whether they will face criminal charges.

An NYPD crime scene unit van stationed at the store left a few hours after the incident after collecting bags of evidence. The store was open for business and filled with customers from around world. A single marked police car stood before the front entrance that faces Herald Square at 34th Street. □

Colorado shooting lawyers tussle over sanity evidence

DAN ELLIOTT

Associated Press

CENTENNIAL, Colorado

(AP) — Prosecutors and defense attorneys in the Colorado theater shooting case are battling over what evidence can be admitted during James Holmes' murder trial — all in an attempt to build up or tear down the case that he was insane.

Holmes pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to more than 160 counts of murder and attempted murder. His attorneys have acknowledged he was the shooter in the massacre, which killed 12 people and wounded 70 others at a suburban Denver movie theater, but they say he was in the midst of a psychotic episode at the time. The latest evidence in dispute is a set of statements Holmes made to investigators trying to figure out how to disable the elaborate array of explosives found in his apartment after the attack.

At a pretrial hearing Thursday, prosecutors presented testimony aimed at showing that authorities had

to question Holmes even though the lawyer he requested wasn't present. Aurora police Lt. Thomas Wilkes said the explosives were so dangerous that authorities considered detonating them and blowing up the whole building, and possibly threatening several nearby buildings, rather than send a technician in. Court records show Holmes was questioned for 38 minutes at the jail about the explosives but specific details of what was discussed haven't been released. FBI agent Garrett Gumbiner, who was among the investigators questioning Holmes, said they asked him about the materials he used and the ignition systems.

"Most of the bomb technicians on the scene and myself had never seen anything like it. Based on the fact that it had three fusing devices, it was very sophisticated," he said. The system included a pyrotechnics firing box that would have been triggered by the remote control unit of a toy car.

On Wednesday, lawyers

sparred over evidence seized from Holmes' car and computers. That included signs that one computer was allegedly used for an Internet search on the words "rational insanity" and photos on his cellphone of himself holding firearms. "The issue is, was he sane or insane at the time," said Karen Steinhäuser, a former prosecutor now in private practice. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty, and to have Holmes executed Colorado law requires that they first convince the jury that Holmes was legally sane — that he knew the shootings were wrong.

The defense has been fighting to exclude any evidence that prosecutors might use to make that point, such as researching definitions of insanity or planning the attack.

Holmes' lawyers argued the evidence from his car should be thrown out because police didn't get a warrant before searching it. They said evidence from the computers should be tossed because a search warrant was overbroad.



Photo shows Aurora theater shooting suspect James Holmes in court in Centennial, Colorado. Prosecutors and defense attorneys in the case battled over evidence Thursday, October 17, 2013, in an attempt to build up or tear down the case that he was insane.

(AP Photo/Andy Cross)

Prosecutors said police had no time to seek a warrant to search the car because they feared it might con-

tain explosives or hazardous material that threatened officers and the public. □

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Deadly Halloween tableau disturbing to neighbors

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press
MUSTANG, Oklahoma (AP)

— One man lies on his stomach on the driveway. Blood is splattered along the garage door that smashed his head and presumably killed him. Another man lies a few feet (meters) away, run over by a truck.

The scene in a middle-class Oklahoma neighborhood made of single-story homes and well-manicured lawns seems out of a horror story because, well, it is. The two accident victims are in fact dummies, created as part of a family's vivid Halloween display to shock and frighten.

And it certainly has. At least one woman has called police to report that a man's head had been shut into

the garage door. Emergency personnel who responded discovered a dummy. Jennifer Mullins and her husband, Johnnie, first placed one life-sized dummy at the garage in early October and the next day, placed one next to the truck.

A sign above the dummy in the garage door reads "you're next." The front yard is filled with spider webs, skeletons, crosses and RIP signs.

Mullins knew the ghastly display would raise some eyebrows, but she's surprised by just how much attention it's received, mainly online. "People think we went too far, and you know, we're devil worshippers and we must not be Christian folk," the 32-year-old mother of two girls said.



Johnnie Mullins poses with his controversial Halloween display featuring headless dummies dressed in his work clothes at his home in Mustang, Okla., Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013. In the display, one dummy lies along a blood-stained garage door with a sign reading "you're next" above it, and another, not shown, lies under a truck with blood splattered on the driveway. Mullins' wife, Jennifer, said she got the idea for the macabre scene from the social media site Pinterest.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

"They've said all kinds of stuff. But we're normal. We love Jesus. We cele-

brate Halloween." A spokeswoman for the local police department said

no crime has been committed because of the false-alarm emergency call. □

Top NY court will review Bloomberg's big-soda ban

MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press
ALBANY, New York (AP) — The state's highest court agreed Thursday to hear

New York City's appeal of a ruling that blocked Mayor Michael Bloomberg's effort to stop many eateries from selling super-sized, sugary

drinks. The Court of Appeals granted a request by city officials to challenge a mid-level court decision that struck

down the measure in August.

Arguments and a decision by the top court are expected next year.

The lower court said the city Board of Health exceeded its authority by putting a 16-ounce (450-gram) size limit on high-calorie soft drinks. The cap would have applied to restaurants, stadiums and many other places.

Bloomberg said he was confident the top court would uphold the board's rule, which he said will help save lives.

"Obesity is the only major public health issue we face that is getting worse, and

sugary drinks are a major driver of the crisis," Bloomberg said.

"The related epidemics of obesity and diabetes are killing at least 5,000 New Yorkers a year and striking hardest in black and Latino communities and low-income neighborhoods."

The American Beverage Association said it's confident the lower court decisions will be upheld.

"The courts have agreed the Board of Health did not have the authority to pass this regulation," spokesman Christopher Gindlesperger said. "We look forward to a final resolution of this issue." □

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US Financial Front:

How the shutdown squeezed corners of US economy



A consumer exits a store with a sale sign posted in the windows in Philadelphia. The full economic effect of the 16-day partial government shutdown will take months to tally. But it's already clear it left its footprints in key areas of the U.S. economy, including consumer spending.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The full economic effect of the 16-day partial government shutdown will take months to tally. But it's already clear it left its footprints in key areas of the U.S. economy.

Spending at chain retail stores fell 0.7 percent last week. Mortgage applications dropped 5 percent. Auto sales slumped about 2 percent.

Overall, the shutdown cost the U.S. economy \$24 billion, according to Beth Ann Bovino, an economist at Standard & Poor's. That's why she's cut her forecast for growth in the October-

December quarter to a 2.4 percent annual rate from an earlier estimate of 3 percent. Other economists have also downgraded their outlooks.

Still, the pain won't be as severe as it could have been. For one thing, furloughed government workers will receive back pay. They and other Americans who delayed making large purchases in the past couple of weeks could step up spending in coming months.

Here's how the shutdown affected the economy and several key drivers of growth:

CONSUMER SPENDING:

It's hard to know exactly

how much consumers will cut back. According to Gallup, consumer confidence fell in the first week of the shutdown by the most since September 2008, when the collapse of Lehman Brothers intensified the financial crisis. Historically, spending doesn't always closely track confidence.

Still, weekly chain store sales fell 0.7 percent last week, the second drop in a row, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Doug Handler, chief economist at IHS Global Insight, has cut his forecast for the fourth quarter by the same amount as Bovino. About half the reduction reflects less spending by the federal government. The other half reflects lower spending by consumers and businesses.

History suggests that consumers will bounce back quickly. Economist Joseph LaVorgna of Deutsche Bank notes that after a similar showdown over the debit limit two years ago, the economy grew over the next six months at the fastest pace in eight years. That's why many analysts are marking down their estimates of fourth-quarter growth only slightly.

"Consumers' memories are short," says Michael Niemira, chief economist at the ICSC. "That could be

good news for the economy."

AUTO SALES:

Some Americans postponed or canceled auto sales, according to J.D. Power and Associates. Sales fell to an annual

rate of 15.3 million in the second week of the shutdown, from 15.6 million in the first week. Industry analysts blamed the budget battle in Washington and its effect on consumer confidence. □

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State TV:

Top Syrian army general killed in battle

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — One of Syria's most powerful military officers was killed in fighting with al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremists in an oil-rich eastern province largely controlled by the rebels, Syrian state-run television said Thursday.

The fighting came amid a new push to hold an elusive peace conference for Syria's civil war, with the government proposing the

in defending Syria and its people."

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Jameh was killed by a sniper bullet during clashes with rebels, including members of al-Qaida-linked Jabhat al-Nusra or Nusra Front.

Jameh's cousin, Haitham Jameh, told Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV that the general was killed when a bomb exploded as he led his troops in an

ister.

Jameh played a major role in Lebanon when Damascus dominated its smaller neighbor. When Syrian troops withdrew from Lebanon in 2005, ending nearly a three-decade military presence, Jameh was in charge of Syrian intelligence in the capital, Beirut.

He was among several top Syrian officers suspected of having a role in the 2005 assassination of former

Jameh was in charge of Beirut's security at the time of the assassination, and "it is difficult to believe that Hezbollah carried out such an operation without full coordination with Syrian intelligence."

In Moscow, meanwhile, the Syrian deputy prime minister, Qadri Jamil, floated Nov. 23-24 as possible dates for talks on a political solution to the Syrian conflict, though there was no agreement on the ground rules for negotiations and the main Western-backed opposition hasn't decided whether to attend.

The United States and Russia have been trying to bring the Damascus government and Syria's divided opposition to negotiations in Geneva for months, but the meeting has been repeatedly delayed. It remains unclear if either side is really willing to negotiate while Syria's civil war, now in its third year, remains deadlocked.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Wednesday that efforts were intensifying to try to hold the Geneva meeting in mid-November. Ban did not provide specific dates, and it's not clear whether those provided by Jamil had been agreed to by any other parties.

The talks have been put off repeatedly, in part because of fundamental disagreements over the fate of Assad.

The Western-backed Syrian National Coalition, the main alliance of political opposition groups, has said it will only negotiate if it is agreed from the start that Assad will leave power at the end of a transition period. □

Breakthrough seen in German coalition talks

GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and their traditional center-left rivals moved a decisive step closer to forming a new government on Thursday, but the alliance of Germany's two biggest parties is still far from a done deal.

Merkel's conservatives won a Sept. 22 parliamentary election, but their coalition partners of the past four years, the pro-business Free Democrats, lost all their seats. Short of an absolute majority, Merkel had to reach across the aisle for a new partner.

She now plans to start formal coalition talks on Wednesday with the Social Democrats, who finished a distant second in the election.

Merkel led a "grand coalition" with the Social Democrats in her first term, from 2005 to 2009. The center-left party doesn't have fond memories of the experience, which ended with a stinging election defeat four years ago, and is keen to extract a high price for repeating it.

Exploratory talks showed that the two sides "can develop sufficient common ground to be able to govern our country successfully for four years," Hermann Groeche, the general secretary of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, said after the parties' leaders agreed to recommend formal coalition negotiations. The Social Democrats' leader, Sigmar Gabriel, will now recommend to a convention on Sunday that the party enter formal coalition talks. Assuming the two sides reach a coalition deal, Gabriel has promised to seek approval for it in a ballot of his party's entire membership.

The Social Democrats have insisted on a mandatory national minimum wage of 8.50 euros (\$11.60) per hour. Germany is one of the few Western countries not to have one; Merkel's bloc has advocated sector-by-sector and region-by-region deals on minimum pay. □



Smoke rises after a mortar shell hits a residential area during fighting between Syrian government forces and rebels in Maaret al-Numan in the Idlib province, Syria. One of Syria's most powerful military officers was killed in fighting with al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremists, Syrian state-run television said Thursday. (AP Photo/Narciso Contreras)

talks start late next month, though there was no sign the opposition would attend.

Maj. Gen. Jameh Jameh was killed in the provincial capital of Deir el-Zour, where he was the head of military intelligence, state-run TV said. He was the most senior military officer to be killed in more than a year.

The report did not say when or how Jameh was killed, only that he died "while he was carrying out his mission

operation in Deir el-Zour, site of more than a year of clashes between regime forces and rebel fighters, who control most of the province.

He was the most powerful Syrian officer to be killed since a July 2012 bomb attack on a Cabinet meeting in Damascus killed four top officials, including the defense minister and his deputy, who was President Bashar Assad's brother-in-law. That attack also wounded the interior min-

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Syria denies any involvement in the slaying. Four members of the Syrian-backed Hezbollah were charged in 2011 by a U.N.-backed tribunal with plotting the attack that killed Hariri, though none have been arrested. Their trial is scheduled to start in January. A fifth Hezbollah member was indicted earlier this month.

Mustafa Alloush, a senior member in Hariri's Future Movement, noted that

Dutch court rules Scientology tax-exempt

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A Dutch court has ruled the Amsterdam arm of Scientology is a charitable organization and exempt from paying taxes.

The ruling by the Amsterdam Appeals Court overturns a lower court ruling

that Scientology should be taxed because it charges adherents for classes.

The appeal court ruled that Scientology's classes "don't differ significantly from what other spiritual organizations do, or can do." It noted there are

payment exemptions for members who can't afford them.

While Scientology is recognized as a religion in the U.S., some countries have classified it as a business or a sect and curtailed its activities.

The Los Angeles-based Church of Scientology, founded in 1954 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, teaches that technology can expand the mind and help solve problems. It claims 10 million members worldwide. □

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Amnesty urges Egypt to stop detaining Syrians

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An international human rights group urged Egypt on Thursday to end its policy of unlawfully detaining Syrian refugees, including children, and forcibly returning them to their homeland where civil war is raging. Amnesty International said that hundreds who have fled the bloodshed in Syria for sanctuary in Egypt — including many children without their parents — face prolonged detention in poor conditions or deportation, which has separated family members in some cases. The Britain-based group said that its activists found one-year-old Syrian twins among refugees in Egypt's custody. It said appalling conditions in detention and the threat of being sent back to Syria are

prompting scores of refugees to flee again. Many embark on a treacherous journey by sea to Europe, Amnesty said, to escape the chaos that has prevailed in Egypt since the July 3 military coup that ousted President Mohamed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood-led govern-

ment. Egypt's new military-backed leadership has been far less tolerant of Syrian refugees given shelter and support during Morsi's reign. "Instead of offering vital help and support to refugees from Syria, the Egyptian authorities are arrest-

ing and deporting them, flouting human rights standards," said Sherif Elsayed-Ali, Amnesty's head of refugee and migrants' rights. "Failing to help and protect them is a stain on the reputation of Egypt and could seriously damage its image as a key stakeholder in the region," Elsayed-Ali added in a statement. According to the U.N. refugee agency, Egypt hosts at least 111,000 people from Syria, though the actual number is likely higher. The backlash from Egypt's new leaders — as well as worsening economic conditions in this country — has driven many to take to the sea. About 3,300 Syrians, including more than 230 unaccompanied children, arrived off Italy's coast in August and the first half of September, according to the U.N. refugee agency. Most were coming from Egypt. □



Mohammad B., a refugee from Daraa, Syria, looks at video from the day he was shot by Syrian government forces, in Cairo, Egypt.

(AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Brazil's state oil workers go on strike

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Workers of Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras have gone on a nationwide strike protesting next week's scheduled auction of a huge offshore oil field, arguing foreign companies shouldn't be involved, union officials said Thursday. It was impossible to independently verify the immediate impact of the strike, but Jose Genivaldo da Silva, a National Oil Workers director, said that at least 90 percent of Petroleo Brasileiro SA's more than 40,000 employees walked off their jobs on Thursday. Petrobras officials confirmed a strike and said in a statement that the company has taken "all the measures needed to guarantee operations and the supply of products to the market."

The statement did not provide further details.

Union director Silva said Petrobras contingency teams comprised of supervisors and managers were maintaining the company's operations at the refineries, offshore platforms and terminals where workers were on strike.

Workers are demanding the suspension of the upcoming auction of the Libra field under new production-sharing agreements with foreign companies that will partner with Petrobras.

Located off the coast of Rio de Janeiro in the Santos Basin, Libra is a pre-salt reserve believed to hold up to 12 million barrels of recoverable oil.

Over the past several years, Brazil has discovered billions of barrels of oil in offshore reserves, mostly in deep, pre-salt fields off its southeast coast.

Most of these fields lie more than a mile below the ocean's surface and under another 2.5 miles of earth and salt.

Silva said the strike was also part of the union's wage campaign. □

Opponents of Dutch 'Black Pete' speak out

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press
AMSTERDAM (AP) — The

"Black Pete" tradition in the Netherlands is under fire from opponents who

believe the figure is a racist caricature and who asked Amsterdam officials Thursday to revoke the permit for a popular children's festival because of it.

"Sinterklaas," the Dutch version of Santa Claus, is portrayed as a tall white man who arrives to great fanfare on Nov. 5, accompanied by dozens of clownish servants called "Zwarte Pieten" — Black Petes. These are typically white people wearing blackface makeup with red lips and curly "Afro" wigs.

Festivities around the country last a month, culminating in a night of poems and gift-giving.

The tradition is an important part of Dutch culture, but in recent years there have been growing complaints that Pete is offensive.

On Thursday, dozens of protesters overflowed a hearing about the permit at Amsterdam City Hall.

One of 21 people who filed formal complaints, Imro Rietveld, described growing up as the only black-skinned child in his class. Every year, he said he was subjected to a month of taunts such as "your whole family is coming over in the boat" and "can you do tricks?"

He said some people are afraid to speak out against Black Pete because they are worried about being ridiculed or even losing their jobs, and he had been warned against coming.

"For the good of all the children," Rietveld said. "This should actually be changed in the whole country."

Opponents say the Sinterklaas festival should continue, but Pete's appearance should be changed.

Mayor Eberhard van der Laan will rule on the Amsterdam permit by the end of the month. □



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**MONDAY - SUNDAY
9:00AM TO 7:00PM**

Ukraine leader floats plan of Tymoshenko release



Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in Kiev, Ukraine. Yanukovich is hoping for a quick solution to the problem the jailed former premier Yulia Tymoshenko, whose release is a key condition for a landmark agreement with the European Union.

(AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

MARIA DANILOVA

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Facing increasing pressure from the West, Ukraine's president on Thursday suggested a new plan for the release of his main rival, the jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, but the proposal won few cheers from her allies.

Speaking to reporters while on a tour to the eastern Donetsk region, Viktor Yanukovich said he would support a parliament bill

allowing Tymoshenko to be released from prison and sent to Germany for treatment of her back problem. "Naturally, if parliament adopts this law, I will sign it," Yanukovich said, according to his website.

The comments by Yanukovich were the strongest indication in recent weeks of his willingness to release Tymoshenko before a landmark Ukraine-EU summit in November, but they appeared to fall short of what Tymoshenko and the Euro-

pean Union are pushing for. The West condemns Tymoshenko's jailing on abuse of power charges as politically motivated and has been pressuring Yanukovich to release her. The EU has refused to sign an integration agreement with Kiev if Tymoshenko remains in jail.

Two EU envoys have recommended that Tymoshenko be pardoned on humanitarian grounds and be sent to Germany for treatment.

There was no comment from Tymoshenko representatives as of Thursday evening, suggesting that a response was still being discussed. But Yanukovich appeared to be referring to a bill proposed by a member of his Party of Re-

gions, which stops short of pardoning Tymoshenko. Under that bill, Tymoshenko could be returned to prison in Ukraine after her treatment in a Berlin clinic is over and would not be able to run in the 2015 presidential election. Tymoshenko's allies have said any attempt to send her to Germany in handcuffs without a pardon would be unacceptable. Serhiy Sobolev, a parliament member from Tymoshenko's party, said Yanukovich's statement was an attempt to absolve himself of responsibility.

Sobolev insisted that all attempts to resolve this case by passing new laws have already been made and that it was up to Yanukovich to pardon her. "We have already exhausted

all legislative possibilities and basically all that Yanukovich can do today is to sign a law pardoning her or sign an amnesty decree," Sobolev was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti news agency. In comments unrelated to Yanukovich's proposal, Tymoshenko's daughter Eugenia reiterated the two EU envoys' position on securing her mother's release. "It is clear and evident to everybody that she should be pardoned and released," Tymoshenko was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency. Tymoshenko, a charismatic opposition leader, is serving a seven-year sentence after being convicted of overstepping her powers while negotiating a gas deal with Russia in 2009. □

Thousands march in Haiti to condemn government

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— An anti-government protest march in Haiti's capital has ended in tear gas and flaming barricades.

Thousands of people joined Thursday's protest, marching through the streets of Port-au-Prince to complain mainly about the higher cost of living. It was one of the biggest demonstrations against the administration of President Michel Martelly this year. The crowd consisted of supporters of former

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and opposition lawmakers. The march began peacefully but ended as protesters approached the presidential grounds.

Police fired warning shots and tear gas canisters and a small group of protesters set fire to barricades made of tires. The protest happened on a national holiday known as Jean-Jacques Dessalines day, honoring one of Haiti's founding fathers. □

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Latin America brings up its dead; seeks to settle the past

SIMON ROMERO

© 2013 New York Times

RIO DE JANEIRO - In the aftermath of Chile's 1973 military coup, Nobel Prize-winning poet and diplomat Pablo Neruda was found dead. Although he was long thought to have perished from prostate cancer, a judge recently

ed Francisco Caamaño, a guerrilla leader and former president. Forensic experts recently unearthed remains thought to be his, four decades after he was killed, in hopes of identifying and depositing them in the Dominican Republic's pantheon of heroes. Ghosts are also stirring in

see whether he was poisoned by spies while in exile in Argentina, and Kubitschek's driver, to determine whether a sniper caused the car crash that killed them both. In country after country, Latin America is experiencing a wave of exhumations, reflecting not only

"Where history is not settled, the heroic dead continue to speak," said Lyman Johnson, a professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina, who has explored Latin America's tradition of exhumations. The recent cycle of exhumations points to earlier patterns in the region, which has a tradition of digging up prominent corpses and submitting them to remarkably intrusive scrutiny, all the while contending that the exercise is for political purposes.

Some traditional centers of exhumation fever, like Mexico, have calmed down somewhat. Back in the 1920s, Mexican leaders were exhuming major figures from the War of Independence, placing them in a monument. Gone, too, is Mexico's frenzy in the 1940s over disputed remains of Aztec ruler Cuauhtémoc and Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés. Now other countries, with Chile at the forefront, seem to be picking up the slack. Salvador Allende, the Chilean president toppled in the 1973 coup, was exhumed in 2011 so that investigators could determine whether he had committed suicide or been killed by his adversaries as they stormed the presidential palace. They concluded that he killed himself with an AK-47 assault rifle, confirming the official story. A previous exhumation in 2004 in Chile of Eduardo Frei Montalva, president from 1964 to 1970, produced remarkable findings that encouraged new exhumations in Chile and beyond. While doctors had originally said that Frei Montalva died in 1982 from complications after surgery to treat a stomach ailment, investigators concluded that he

had been poisoned with small doses of mustard gas and thallium, a highly toxic heavy metal.

Latin America is far from the only region where political or intellectual figures are unearthed, as shown by the 2012 exhumation of Yasser Arafat, the long-time Palestinian leader, to examine poisoning claims, and Spain's attempts to find and identify the remains of poet Federico García Lorca and others killed during the Spanish Civil War. But whether to solve the mysteries of death or promote tales of heroism, Latin America is a region where digging up the dead and sometimes even mutilating their remains have long been a fixture of politics. Scholars say the practice may be the secularized continuation of customs from the time of early Christianity, when a vibrant trade involved the body parts of saints. Brazil, Latin America's largest country, has its own precedents, including the transport of remains across the Atlantic Ocean to reinforce the narrative of Brazil's emergence as an independent nation. In the 1930s, the authoritarian regime of Getúlio Vargas collected the remains of the Inconfidentes, participants in an 18th-century separatist movement, from burial places in Africa, where they had died in exile, and reburied them in Minas Gerais state. And in 1972, military rulers exhumed Pedro I, the first emperor of an independent Brazil, in Portugal and transferred his remains to a São Paulo monument. (Curiously, this operation did not include Pedro I's heart, which remains in a church in Porto, Portugal, as requested in his will.)□



Workers from the Servicio Medico Legal exhume the coffin of former President Salvador Allende in Santiago, Chile in 2011. In country after country, Latin America is experiencing a wave of exhumations, reflecting not only the difficulty some political figures have finding serenity in the afterlife, but also the region's willingness to resurrect unresolved questions and quarrels over its history. (Tomas Muniz/The New York Times)

ordered his remains exhumed from a grave overlooking the Pacific Ocean to investigate claims that he was poisoned. The same year as Chile's coup, soldiers in the Dominican Republic execut-

Brazil, as officials examine claims that two former civilian presidents, João Goulart and Juscelino Kubitschek, were assassinated in 1976. Lacking proof, investigators say they will soon exhume Goulart, to

the difficulty some political figures have finding serenity in the afterlife but also the region's willingness to resurrect unresolved questions and quarrels over its history, even if it literally involves digging up the past.

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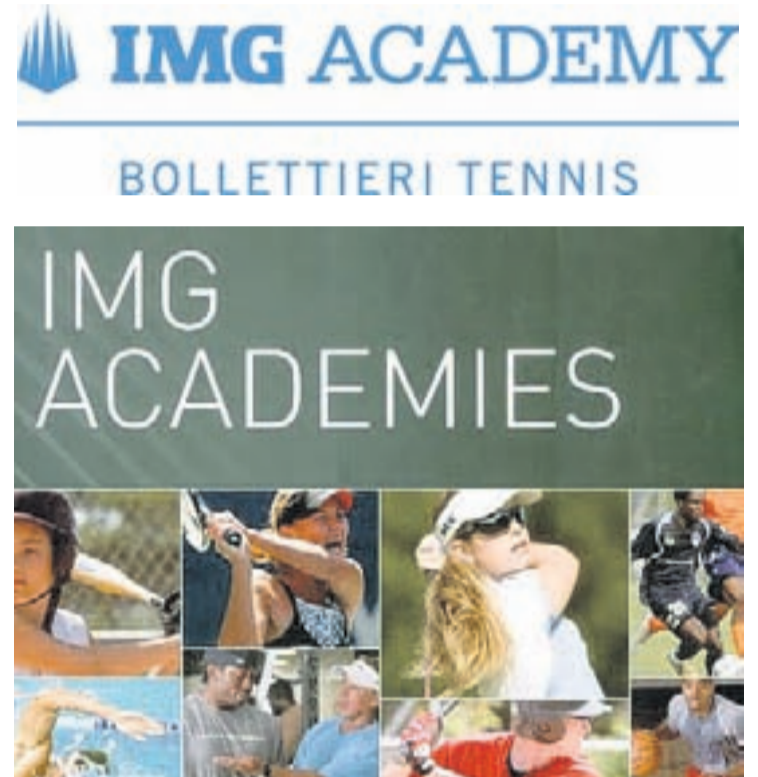
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Aruba Racquet Club reopens their doors, announcing an alliance with IMG - the #1 Athletic Academy in the world



PALM BEACH - Aruba Racquet Club is currently undergoing an intensive renovation and restructuring. The private family focused facility will be reopening its doors on November 1st, 2013. The new club will be offering tennis lessons for all ages, different membership levels from single adult to family packages and a High Performance Tennis Academy. New to the club are 4 beach tennis courts, a new infinity pool, restaurant and amenities such as eight tennis courts, futsal court, basketball court, gym and certified tennis staff.

Aruba Racquet Club's

main goal is to raise the level of tennis on Aruba and to achieve this ambition the management is excited to announce a partnership with Nick Bollettieri and IMGAcademy, the premier athletic academy in the world and Bollettieri who had a hand in developing 10 players who reached number 1 ranked in the world. The alliance will start in November with a clinic and will aim to prepare ARC tennis students to take a summer program at the IMG Academy thus opening the doors to the tennis players on Aruba to start a professional career in tennis.



More than just a tennis facility Aruba Racquet Club will be offering activities to interest all members of the family and provide a

beautiful exclusive place to socialize and enjoy your leisure pursuits in a safe and relaxed environment. Contact us for more information

about the memberships, tennis programs, IMG alliance and activities by email: info@arc.aw or by calling: 586-2015.

From the Bugaloe Crew:

A Big Warm Southern Caribbean Welcome to Two Lovely Couples!

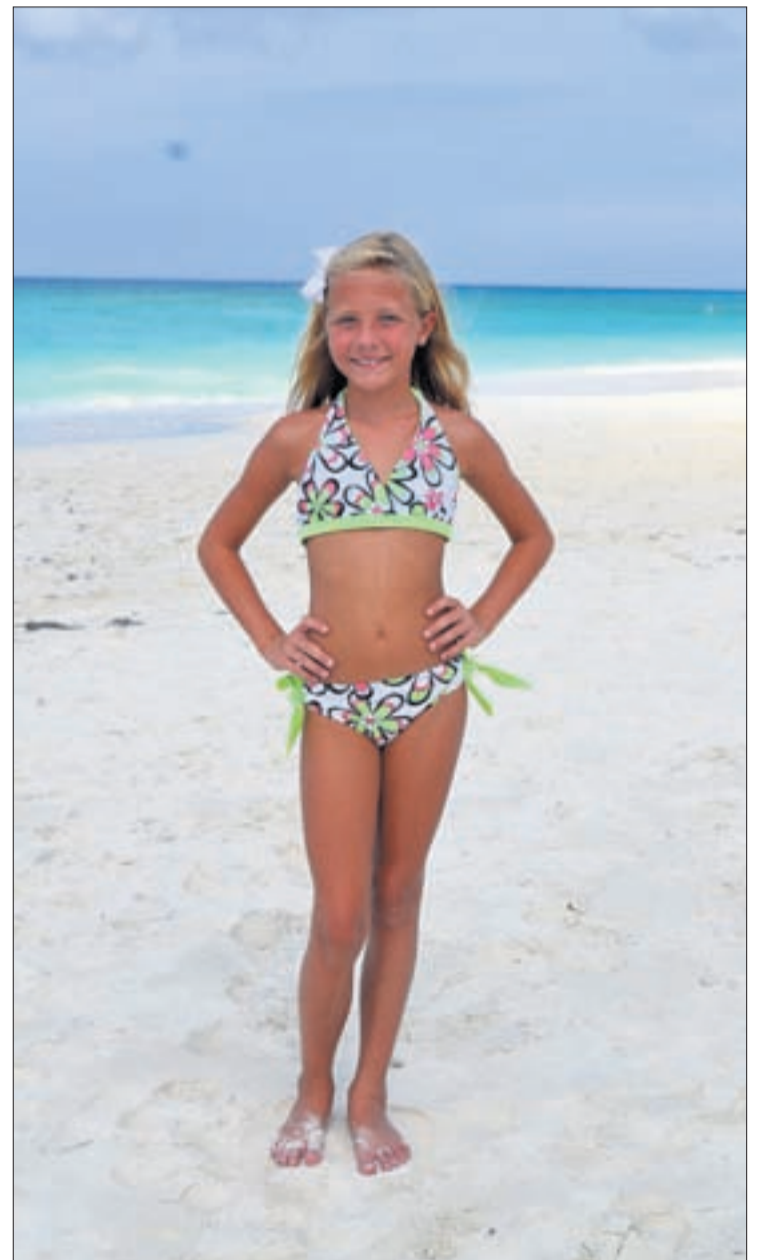
PALM BEACH - A big warm Bugaloe welcome to Bill and Bev Goodrich from Kentucky and Paul and Bev Arnold from Arkansas! The two couples have been coming to Aruba for 10 years already and discovered Bugaloe last year October. Bill, Bev, Bev and Paul love Bugaloe for the 6 nights a week live music, food, atmosphere and crew! Well, they pretty much like everything, to be honest. Even though they don't have a favorite item on the menu, 'they like and enjoy everything from it' !

Their favorite drink overall is a Chardonnay for the ladies and a Rum for the men. When they are in Aruba, they like to spend most of their time having drinks and having a good time with friends. The island pretty much covers everything they like, from the people to the beaches, they just love Aruba! Mostly driving around in a rental jeep and discover all sites of the island. When on 'the one happy island' they reside in Casa Del Mar resort! A perfect location at the



beach, and in proximity to Bugaloe! The fun memories Bill, Paul, Bev and Bev have are just too many to count, and they simple 'can't pick one'. If they have to pick one night in particular, it's Tuesday night, when their favorite band Joyride plays! The Bugaloe Crew likes to thank the two lovely couples for being such fun guests, and hopes to welcome them back soon! □

Mia Loves Aruba!



PALM BEACH - This little Beauty staying at the Casa del Mar, is Mia Pecevick all the way from Boston. Mia is a third grader who is dreaming of becoming a doctor to help people

get better. Her hobbies are: theatre, Irish step dance, soccer, basketball and cheerleading. We are proud to let you know that her favorite vacation place in the world is ARUBA! □

Beauty On The Beach

Kenna and Carolina Armstrong

Kenna and Caroline are with their parents on vacation in Aruba, it is their first visit to the island. They are staying at Hyatt Regency Aruba. What they love the most of Aruba are the beaches.

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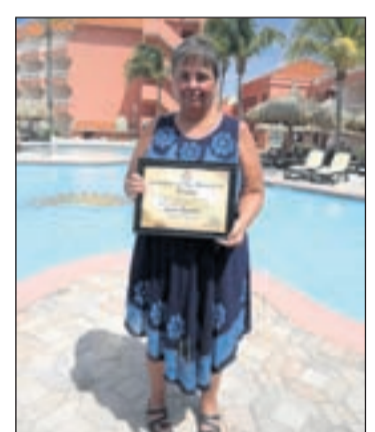
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Loyal Visitors honored at the Paradise Beach Villas!



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach Villas as Distinguished Visitor and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as



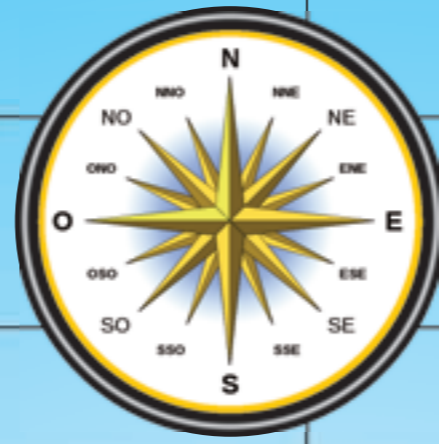
a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Jacqueline Conni from Bensalem, Pennsylvania, Deborah Wilson from Wantagh, New York, Bernadette Princioti from New Rochelle, New York, Susan Paradise from Weymouth Massachusetts, Jean (The Queen) Mac Donald from Idalfax Massachusetts, James and Mary Hunsberger from Souderton, Pennsylvania, and Marilyn Samet and her daughter Roni Samet from Long Beach, New York. The honorees are loyal members of the Paradise Beach Villas and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weath-



er, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Paradise Beach Villas is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Milca Erasmus representing the Paradise Beach Villas. □

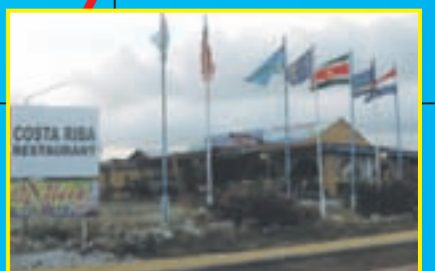
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- No Right turn





IPO to give investors a stake in NFL running back

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Here's a new twist on fantasy sports: a San Francisco startup is offering a chance to bet on the moneymaking potential of star athletes. The unusual investment opportunity kicked off Thursday with an IPO filing proposing to sell stock for a stake in the future income of the Houston Texans' Arian Foster, a top running back in the National Football League.

The initial public offering hinges on a deal requiring Fantex Holdings Inc. to pay Foster \$10 million in return for a 20 percent share of his remaining contract with the Texans, his endorsement income and any other future money tied to his football career. Those earnings could include potential broadcasting jobs that Foster gets after his playing career is over. It doesn't include money Foster would make if he



In this Sept. 29, 2013, file photo, Houston Texans running back Arian Foster (23) rushes for a gain against the Seattle Seahawks during the third quarter an NFL football game in Houston.

Associated Press

pursues a career unrelated to football.

This isn't the first time that a public figure has bet on his future moneymaking potential in the securities markets. British rocker David Bowie famously sold shares in his future earnings with the issue of "Bowie Bonds." Fantex plans to sell about 1 million shares at \$10 apiece to pay Foster and cover other expenses. The tracking stock won't trade on a major stock exchange; instead, it will be bought and sold on a trading platform set up by Fantex, which was co-founded last year by Silicon Valley entrepreneur Buck French.

Foster, who is in his fifth season with the Texans, is just the first player in what Fantex hopes will become a diversified line-up of star athletes. Foster declined to comment citing Securities and Exchange Commission regulations.

Continued on Page 21



J.J. Henry holds up his club as he sinks a putt for eagle on the ninth hole in the first round of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open golf tournament, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013, in Las Vegas. Henry finished at 11 under par for the round.

Associated Press

KEITH FREEMAN

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — J.J. Henry made a 50-foot eagle putt from the fringe

J.J. Henry shoots 60 in Las Vegas

on his final hole Thursday for an 11-under 60 and a one-stroke lead in the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Henry also had nine birdies in perfect conditions at TPC Summerlin en route to the lowest round of his career. The two-time PGA Tour winner broke the course record and was a shot off the event mark of 59 set by Chip Beck in 1991 at Sunrise Golf Club.

Argentina's Andres Romero was second. He had two eagles in a 61.

James Driscoll, Jonathan Byrd and Jeff Overton shot 63. Webb Simpson had a 64. "I finally made some putts," Henry said. "I've al-

ways felt like I've been a pretty good ball-striker, and when I make some putts I seem to climb the board. Henry began play on No. 10, and birdied Nos. 12 and 15-17 on his first nine. He added birdies on Nos. 2, 4-6 and 8 before eagling the par-5 ninth for a career-best 7-under 28 on the nine. "And I obviously hit a lot of good ones today and hit some close ones, but it was nice to make a couple of those ones, especially that last one for eagle on nine, my 18th hole. I'm just trying to get it down there somewhere and obviously kind of tap it in, but it's always a bonus when those things go in." Henry's previous

PGA Tour best was a 10-under 61 in the 2006 Phoenix Open. "Obviously, this is the kind of week you (have to) shoot some low scores," Henry said. "And obviously (there) is a long way to go, but it's nice to get one early in the tournament and see if you can kind of build on it. You (have to) shoot somewhere in the low to mid 20s (under par for 72 holes) to probably have a chance to win, and I think the golf course is going to be there."

Argentina's Andres Romero was second. He had two eagles in a 61, also his lowest PGA Tour score.

"I was focused on my game and I was trying to do my

job, and that's all," Romero said. "I feel very good and focused on the game and on every shot. So I wasn't paying attention to the leaderboard and the other guys." James Driscoll, Jonathan Byrd and Jeff Overton shot 63. Driscoll eagled the ninth, and Overton had an eagle on his opening hole — the 408-yard, par-4 first.

Webb Simpson had a 64. Zach Johnson, the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 11 in the world, opened with a 69. Defending champion Ryan Moore also shot 69.

Jimmy Walker, the winner of the season-opening Frys.com Open last week in California, had a 71. □

Nicklaus returns to play in Father-Son

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) —

Jack Nicklaus is returning to the PNC Father-Son Challenge with his oldest son.

Nicklaus and Jack Nicklaus II will be among 20 teams that play Dec. 12-15 at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club. Nick Price and his son (Greg) and Stewart Cink and his son (Connor) will be

playing for the first time.

The event is for players who have won a major or The Players Championship and a son — with a few exceptions. Two-time Masters champion Bernhard Langer and two-time major winner Fuzzy Zoeller will be playing with their daughters.

Nicklaus won the Father-Son in 1999 with Gary.

Only two players — Raymond Floyd and Larry Nelson — have won the tournament with different sons. □



Jack Nicklaus responds to a question during a news conference at the Presidents Cup golf tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013, in Dublin, Ohio.

Associated Press

Jets' coach: I didn't ban players from having sex

DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Sports Writer

FLORHAM PARK, New Jersey (AP) — Rex Ryan has provided plenty of memorable quotes during his four-plus years as coach of the New York Jets. This one, though, might have topped them all.

In an attempt to clarify what he told his players at a team meeting this week, Ryan offered this declaration on Thursday to avoid some apparent confusion:

"I did not tell our players that they couldn't have sex," Ryan said.

Newly acquired wide receiver-kick returner Josh Cribbs said on Wednesday he could tell how much Ryan wants to beat New England in the NFL this weekend, telling his players to put off doing chores around the house until next week. Some players mistakenly thought Ryan implied that sex was also on his banned "honey-do" list.

"Somebody misinterpreted the message apparently," Ryan said with a smile. □



In this Oct. 17, 2011, file photo, New York Jets coach Rex Ryan watches during the first quarter of the Jets' NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Detroit beats Boston 7-3 to square series 2-2

NOAH TRISTER

AP Baseball Writer

DETROIT (AP) — A re-vamped Detroit lineup beat Boston Red Sox 7-3 on Wednesday to even the American League Championship Series at 2-2.

Torii Hunter had a two-run double and Miguel Cabrera drove in two runs for the Tigers, who host Game 5 on Thursday before the series moves back to Boston for the final two games.

Detroit manager Jim Leyland dropped Austin Jackson to eighth in the batting order and moved everyone else up a place, and it paid dividends as Jackson drew a bases-loaded walk off Jake Peavy for the first run of Detroit's five-run second inning.

"It just helped me relax," Jackson said. "That was the goal. To get me to relax a little, be patient get a good pitch and let the rest take care of itself."

Tigers starter Doug Fister allowed one run in six innings as the hosts hung on to an early lead, having blown a 5-0 advantage in Game 2. Jackson, who had been 3 for 33 with 18 strikeouts in the playoffs before Wednesday, finished with two singles and two walks.



Detroit Tigers' Austin Jackson steals second in the fourth inning as Boston Red Sox's Stephen Drew takes the throw during Game 4 of the American League baseball championship series Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013, in Detroit. Associated Press

Jacoby Ellsbury had four hits for the Red Sox, finishing a homer shy of the cycle.

Leyland's order shuffle made for an odd-looking order. Hunter hit leadoff

for the first time since 1999 and Cabrera was second for only the third time in his career — first since 2004.

"It gave us a different mindset to make things happen," Hunter said.

Jackson found himself batting in a crucial situation right away, with the bases loaded and one out in the second. Peavy walked him on four pitches to force home the game's

first run.

The Red Sox had a chance to immediately respond when Jose Iglesias hit a potential double play grounder to second, but Dustin Pedroia did not field it cleanly and Boston had to settle for a forceout at second that brought another run home.

Hunter followed with a double down the line in left to make it 4-0, and Cabrera added an RBI single. After walking three batters in the second inning, Peavy was in trouble again in the fourth. After a leadoff double by Omar Infante, Jackson slapped a single past a diving Pedroia to bring home a run. Cabrera's single made it 7-0, and the Detroit third baseman — who has been running even slower than usual over the last month or so because of groin problems — caught the Boston defense napping when he stole second without a throw.

In the fifth, Cabrera looked healthy enough when he charged Pedroia's slow grounder, barehanded it and threw to first for the out.

Peavy allowed seven runs in three-plus innings.

Boston's Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit an RBI single in the sixth, but Fister got out of a two-on, one-out jam after that.

Shane Victorino hit an RBI double for Boston in the seventh to make it 7-2.

In the ninth, the Red Sox briefly threatened a comeback when Jacoby Ellsbury hit an RBI triple with none out. But Joaquin Benoit struck out Victorino, ensuring that David Ortiz wouldn't be able to bat as the tying run later in the inning.

When Ortiz did come up to face Benoit, there was still only one man on. The Boston designated hitter took a mighty swing, but his high fly ball to right field was caught easily.

In Game 5 on Thursday, the Tigers' Anibal Sanchez faces Boston's Jon Lester in a rematch of Game 1, which was won by Detroit 1-0. □

NHL Roundup

Rangers, Lundqvist shut out Capitals

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist earned his 46th NHL shutout to help his team to a 2-0 win over Washington on Wednesday, ending a run of three games without a win.

Brad Richards helped set up goals by Ryan Callahan and John Moore, and Lundqvist made 22 saves. The Capitals were unable to produce much of a scoring threat, even with their formidable power play and three-time NHL MVP Alex Ovechkin, and fell to 2-5.

In the day's other game, Anaheim beat Calgary

3-2 to extend its best season start in club history.

Teemu Selanne scored the first goal of his 22nd NHL season, while Dustin Penner and Kyle Palmieri scored first-period goals for the Ducks, who have won five of their first six games for the first time in the club's two-decade history.

Anaheim has won 26 of its past 27 home games against Calgary.

Lee Stempniak scored a short-handed goal and Jiri Hudler got credit for a deflected goal early in the third period for the Flames, who lost in regulation for the first time this season. □



New York Rangers defenseman John Moore (17) celebrates his goal with defenseman Ryan McDonagh in the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Washington Capitals, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013, in Washington. Associated Press



In this Dec. 2, 2012, file photo, Houston Texans running back Arian Foster (23) blows a kiss to the crowd after scoring a touchdown on a 2-yard run against the Tennessee Titans in the second quarter of an NFL football game in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 18

The company is aiming to do IPOs featuring players in professional baseball, basketball, hockey and golf, as well.

"Our philosophy is to work with people who we believe have interesting brand attributes that we can work with and they can work with us," said French who got rich during the dot-com boom after selling a software company to Siebel Systems. "You don't have to be a super-

star. I could see us working with big names and no names. The question is do they have attributes to build a brand for the long haul." At least one person associated with Fantex knows something about a long sports career. John Elway, the former Denver Broncos quarterback who is now executive vice president of football operations for his former team, is a member of Fantex's parent company, Fantex Holdings. Just like any securities investment there

are risks. The marketability of professional athletes can go through wild swings if they become embroiled in scandals, as superstars such as bicyclist Lance Armstrong and golfer Tiger Woods have proven. There's also no guarantee that athletes will have long playing careers.

Foster, 27, already has suffered injuries to his knees and hamstring that have sidelined him in previous seasons and limited his ability to play in other games. He also has been plagued

Galaxy close in on MLS West lead

CARSON, California (AP) — Los Angeles' Kofi Opare scored his first MLS goal to give the Galaxy a 1-0 home win over Montreal on Thursday which moved the California club up to third in the Western Conference, two

points off the lead with two games to play.

Opare spun and chipped the ball into the net from a scramble in the Montreal box following a corner in the 68th minute.

The two-time defending

MLS Cup champions can clinch a playoff berth with a win or draw on Sunday against San Jose. Montreal, which is fourth in the East, suffered its third successive 1-0 defeat and had its winless streak hit six games. □

by an irregular heartbeat since he was 12, according to the IPO filing.

So far, Foster has remained healthy enough to be one of the main cogs on the Texans, a team that was widely expected to be a Super Bowl contender. It's been a disappointment so far this season with a 2-4 record. Fantex is betting it can help Foster line up a lot of lucrative endorsements, as well as help him make money after his career is over. The Texans

signed Foster to a five-year contract that will pay him \$23.5 million during the period covered by the Fantex IPO. He also could earn up to \$2 million in bonuses, depending on his performance, according to the IPO filing. He's also lined up endorsement deals that could pay nearly \$700,000. If Foster collects the maximum amounts from his Texans contract and current endorsements, Fantex would receive about \$5 million. □

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OCTOBER 17 - 23

CHLOE GRACE MORETZ | JULIANNE MOORE

CARRIE

MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20
FRI 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:40
SAT 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20

JAMES GANDOLFINI | JULIA LOUIS-DREYFUS

Enough Said

MON - THURS 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

SYLVESTER STALLONE | AIRACED SOFIAKISMOORE

ESCAPE

MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00
FRI 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00 | 11:30
SAT 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00

SANDRA BULLOCK | GEORGE CLOONEY

GRAVITY

3D VERSION

MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30
FRI 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
SAT 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30

MON - THURS 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30
FRI 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30 | 11:40
SAT 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30

TOM HANKS | BARKHAD ABDE

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

MON - FRI 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:15
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

BILL HADER | ANNA FARIS

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2

3D VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30
FRI 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
SAT 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE | BEN AFFLECK

RUNNER RUNNER

MON - THURS 4:55 | 9:25
FRI - SAT 4:55 | 9:25 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 4:55 | 9:25

CHRIS BROWN | JOSH PECK

BATTLE OF THE YEAR

MON - FRI 7:00
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:20 | 7:00

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Manu's back and looking for that old magic

RAUL DOMINGUEZ
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) —

When it was all over, when the San Antonio Spurs had let their fifth championship slip through their fingers and succumbed to the Miami Heat in a classic seven-game NBA Finals, Manu Ginobili just needed to get away. And he wasn't sure he was coming back.

He was a pending free agent, coming off one of his most challenging seasons yet and staring his 36th birthday right in the face. Ginobili sought an escape in the crystal waters and the coral reefs of the Turks and Caicos Islands of the Caribbean, but even paradise can be spoiled when the baggage you packed includes a heavy heart.

The Spurs were five seconds away from winning their fifth NBA title in as many attempts, but a pair of missed rebounds followed by gut-wrenching 3-pointers helped Miami win Game 6 in overtime, and the Heat closed out their second straight championship two days later.

The losses were heart-breaking, especially Game 6, and no one took it worse than Ginobili. Not even a family holiday swimming with his twin sons could make the team's emotional shooting guard forget what might have been. "It could have been easier if every single waiter and employee and visitor of that hotel hadn't watched the finals," Ginobili said. "Everybody wanted to tell you that they watched it and appreciated what you did and say something about the game. I really appreciated it, (but) I really didn't appreciate it, but I understood it. It made me



San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili, of Argentina, takes part in an open NBA basketball practice, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

remember a lot more than I wanted."

The Argentine magician has always been the heartbeat of these cold, calculating Spurs, bringing a human element to a machine-like organization and piling up victories along the way. But injuries caused him to miss 22 games in the regular season last year, and he was rarely able to summon the dynamic verve and uncanny playmaking that made him a fan favorite in San Antonio.

He shot under 40 percent in the postseason and had eight turnovers in Game 6 of the finals, when the Spurs were up five points and 20 seconds from closing the series out when the Heat rallied to win it. And

when the series was over, he was the only member of the Spurs' star trio that didn't immediately vow to come back in 2014.

Given his lengthy history of injuries and erratic performance in the playoffs, Ginobili wasn't sure if the Spurs wanted him back. It took Spurs general manager RC Buford less than six minutes on July 1 when the market opened to tell Ginobili that he was wanted and needed.

"That's all I wanted to hear," said Ginobili, who signed a two-year, \$14.5 million deal. "After the finals, (I wanted to know and) understand they really wanted me back. Once I heard that, I said, 'OK.'"

And Ginobili truly appears to be back.

He is averaging team-highs with 12.5 points, 3.5 assists and 2.5 steals in 21 minutes per game in the preseason. He is once again charging headfirst to the basket for layups and dunks and firing passes to teammates — and occasionally to unsuspecting fans in the first few rows.

"To me, Manu was the best," said Italian swingman Marco Belinelli, who signed with the Spurs this summer. "This guy can do everything, in Europe and America."

Most of the Spurs met for dinner during the offseason to commiserate and cope with the finals loss, but the biggest remedy for Ginobili is being back on the court. He admitted to not being ready mentally

a month ago. But being back in training camp with his teammates has refueled his "energy bars."

While Ginobili is feeling spry now, keeping him that way is critical to San Antonio's fortunes. To help keep him healthy, the Spurs added from free agency a younger version of Ginobili in Belinelli, his former teammate in the Euroleague.

"I think (Belinelli) is a very underrated player," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "I consider him to have the same mindset as Manu, which means I'm going to have to be patient as I've learned with Manu. Manu taught me to shut up and just watch him play a little more, which is a good thing. And Marco is going to be the same way. They both have the same passion for the game. They have no fear, which most of the time is good, but sometimes it can bite you. But I would rather have that than somebody who is timid."

Belinelli's ball-handling and ability to set up the pick-and-roll are expected to lessen the load on Ginobili. "I'm happy to be playing with him," Ginobili said. "We are going to be playing together a lot. It's going to be a great opportunity for us to have fun together and play well. We've got to get to know each other. What he's going to give us is another creator, another generator of situations, he can play pick and roll, he can finish and he can shoot. He's a very good shooter overall."

"Usually I've been the one creating for shooters, so we're going to be sharing that job so it's going to be interesting to see how we play together." □



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ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ever suspect you do more housework than your spouse? Or that certain tasks at work raise your blood pressure? Maybe you wonder why you are sneezing more lately, or if carbs are really what is making you tired after lunch?

Turns out, there's an app or gadget to test all of that. Advancements in wearable body sensors, mobile applications and other gadgets mean that nearly everything we do can be captured, logged and analyzed. And everyday consumers are jumping at the chance to conduct their own experiments — tracking sleep, caffeine intake, kids' studying habits, household chores, even whether a baby is nursing more frequently on Mom's left breast versus her right. "I don't know if I'd use the word 'obsessed,'" said Ernesto Ramirez, a self-tracking devotee who helped to organize a two-day conference on the subject last week in San Francisco. Speakers at past "Quantified Self" conferences have included a man who developed his own app to see if he could walk every street in Manhattan and a dad who used trackers on his kids to monitor chores. "I think there's an overall trend toward curiosity and proving knowledge of one's self in the world," Ramirez said.

When Tim Davis of Beaver, Pennsylvania, tipped the scales at 318 pounds (144 kilograms) two years ago, he bought a Fitbit gadget to track his physical activity and the Lose It! app on his phone to track



This photo from video taken Oct. 9, 2013, shows Tim Davis on the phone of his pharmacy in New Brighton, Pa. Davis uses several apps and three wearable devices to track his physical activity, vitals and calorie intake.

Associated Press

calories. He bought a Wi-Fi-enabled scale that published his daily weight on his Twitter feed and turned to other apps to track his pulse, blood pressure, daily moods and medications. At one point, Davis said he was using 15 different apps and gadgets, which he said helped him drop 64 pounds (29 kilograms) by that following year. "It's the second-by-second, minute-by-minute changes that really did it," said Davis, 39. "If you're the type of person who likes gadgets and devices and to collect metrics, you're also the kind of person who does not like gaps in data." A pediatrician in Kansas City, Missouri, Natasha Bugert, said apps that track newborn feedings and sleep patterns have become wildly popular among her patients and she now encourages parents to send her the data before their appointments. "In the first few weeks, parents are so tired. It's really

hard for them to give you objective data," Bugert said.

Public health advocates and researchers say tracking technology could be

used to encourage people to use less gasoline, conserve water or drive slower by giving them real-time feedback on their daily habits. It also could expose causes of medical conditions that baffle doctors. HopeLab, based in Redwood, California, is one nonprofit looking to harness technology to improve health. It has developed a \$30 movement-tracking device for kids called a "Zamzee," and a website that rewards activity with online points and badges. HopeLab has developed video games for young cancer patients that lets them pretend to blast cancer cells. Researchers there say their studies have shown that the game improved patients' moods and encouraged them to stick with treatment. □

Sony's \$200 smartwatch works with Android phones

ANICK JESDANUN

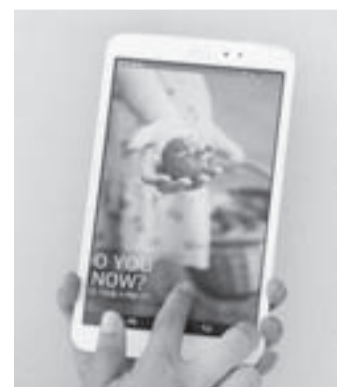
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sony says its new computerized wristwatch will sell for \$200 in the U.S. and will work with a variety of Android phones. Sony's SmartWatch 2 hasn't gotten as much attention as Samsung Electronics Co.'s Galaxy Gear, but it's cheaper and compatible with a broader range of phones. The Gear costs \$300 and currently works only with the company's Galaxy Note 3 phone. Unlike the Gear, however, Sony's watch doesn't let you make phone calls directly through the wristwatch. You can answer calls using the watch, but you need a Bluetooth wire-

less headset linked to the phone if you don't want to hold it to your ear.

Sony Corp. said Tuesday that the watch is available immediately through the company's physical and online stores. Other online retailers will also sell it.

As more people own smartphones and tablets, consumer-electronics companies are creating a new category of products to give consumers more ways to stay connected — and to spend money. Qualcomm Inc. also plans to release a smartwatch in time for the holidays, while Apple is widely believed to be developing an iWatch. The company said its smartwatch is designed to perform common tasks



Sony's SmartWatch 2 in a variety of colors is seen in an undated photo provided by Sony. Sony says its new computerized wristwatch will sell for \$200 in the U.S. and will work with a variety of Android phones.

Associated Press

such as checking texts and email, liking Facebook posts and getting calendar reminders. □

Gold sees huge gain

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gold logged its biggest gain in a month Thursday as investors turned their focus back to the economy after Washington reached a deal to avoid a U.S. default.

Investors judged that the shutdown and the accompanying hit to consumer confidence would hurt economic growth in the final quarter of the year. That may require further economic stimulus from the Federal Reserve. Gold is considered a hedge against any potential inflation, which some investors fear could follow the prolonged stimulus.

Gold also got a boost from the falling dollar. The metal is seen as an alternative to the U.S. currency and typically advances when the dollar falls. The metal hit a three-month low October 11. "If you're going back to basics, you're looking at continued low interest rates and some inflation," said George Gero, a commodities analyst at RBC Capital Markets. "All of that means that gold has been way oversold."

The price of gold for December delivery rose \$40.70, or 3.2 percent, to \$1,323 an ounce. That was its biggest one-day gain since September 19.

Other metals also rose.

December silver rose 58 cents, or 2.7 percent, to \$21.95 an ounce. Platinum for January delivery rose \$36.70, or 2.6 percent, to \$1,434.90 an ounce. Palladium for December rose \$24.25, or 3.4 percent, to \$737.80.

Copper for December delivery fell 1.1 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$3.30 a pound. In agricultural products, wheat, corn and soybean prices rose.

Wheat for December rose 4.5 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$6.86 a bushel. Corn for the same month climbed 0.3 cent, or 0.1 percent, to \$4.43 a bushel. November soybeans rose 16.75 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$12.93 a bushel. □

S&P 500 reaches all-time high after debt deal

KEN SWEET
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market hit an all-time high Thursday as Wall Street put the government shutdown and debt ceiling crisis behind it and focused on corporate earnings. The Standard & Poor's 500

index of 30 big U.S. companies was held back by declines in IBM, Goldman Sachs and UnitedHealth. IBM's third-quarter revenue fell and missed Wall Street's forecast by more than \$1 billion. The stock closed down \$11.90, or 6 percent, to \$174.80. Earlier, it had

trading for the next couple weeks. So far, only 79 companies in the S&P 500 have reported third-quarter results, according to S&P Capital IQ. Analysts expect earnings at those companies to increase 3.3 percent over the same period a year ago.

points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,102.27 and has risen nearly 30 percent this year. Market analysts think the 16-day partial shutdown of the government caused billions of dollars of damage to the economy. Government employees were furloughed, contracts were delayed, and tourism declined at national parks. Analysts at Wells Fargo said the shutdown likely lowered economic growth by 0.5 percentage point.

There remain broader concerns that Democrats and Republicans won't be able to draw up a longer-term budget. The deal approved late Wednesday only permits the Treasury Department to borrow through Feb. 7 and fund the government through Jan. 15.

"The agreement represents another temporary fix that pushes fiscal uncertainty into the early months of next year," Wells Fargo analysts said.

Despite the worries, signs of normalcy returned to financial markets Thursday. The one-month Treasury bill was back to trading at a yield of 0.01 percent, about where it was a month ago, and down sharply from 0.35 percent on Tuesday. Usually a staid, conservative security, the one-month T-bill was subjected to a wave of selling at the beginning of the month. Investors feared the T-bill would be the first piece of government debt to be affected by a U.S. default if the debt ceiling was breached and the federal government could no longer pay its obligations. The yield on the more closely-watched 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.60 percent from 2.67 percent Wednesday. □



A board above the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the record closing number for the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013. The Dow Jones industrial index fell two points to close at 15,371, held back by declines in IBM, Goldman Sachs and UnitedHealth, which issued results that disappointed investors.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

index rose 11.61 points, or 0.7 percent, to close at 1,733.15 — a record close. Nine of the 10 industry groups in the index finished higher, with technology the only group that fell.

The market rose throughout the day as investors got back to focusing on corporate earnings and economic data. American Express and Verizon rose the most in the Dow Jones industrial average after reporting earnings that beat expectations from financial analysts.

The Dow ended the day down two points, or 0.01 percent, to 15,371.65. The

touched its lowest level of the past year — \$172.57. Goldman Sachs also weighed down the index. The investment bank's revenue fell sharply as trading in bonds and other securities slowed. Goldman fell \$3.93, or 2.4 percent, to \$158.32.

The focus on earnings is a change of pace for Wall Street, which had been absorbed in Washington's political drama over the last month.

Now that the U.S. has avoided the possibility of default, at least for a few months, earnings news is expected to dominate

"I don't think we can completely close the door on the debt ceiling chapter just yet, but we can get back to the stuff that really matters," said Jonathan Corpina, who manages trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange for Meridian Equity Partners.

Other indexes also posted noticeable gains. The Nasdaq composite closed up 23.71 points, or 0.6 percent, to 3,863.15.

The Russell 2000 index, which is made up of primarily smaller, riskier companies, also hit an all-time high. It closed up 9.85

US gov't to release September jobs report Oct. 22

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Labor Department will release the September employment report on Tuesday now that Congress has reopened the government. The report had been de-

layed 2½ weeks because of the partial government shutdown.

Labor also says it will postpone the October employment report for one week. It will now be issued on Nov. 8. The extra time is likely needed for government of-

ficials to gather data, which they couldn't do during the shutdown. The September report was mostly completed before the shutdown began Oct. 1.

Other delayed Labor reports will also be released in the next two week. The

government will report on August job openings and labor turnover on Oct. 24, September wholesale inflation on Oct. 29 and the September consumer price index, which measures broader inflation, on Oct. 30. □

Hulu names Fox's Hopkins as new CEO

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On-line video service Hulu named Fox executive Mike Hopkins as its new CEO Thursday, ending speculation over the company's leadership as it embarks on a period of expansion.

The announcement comes three months after Hulu's owners — media giants 21st Century Fox, The Walt Disney Co. and Comcast Corp. — announced in July they had called off their second attempt in three years to sell it and would instead invest \$750 million more to ensure its future growth.

In a memo to staff, Hopkins indicated that plans for how to spend that capital could define his tenure.

"With the foundation you have built, the significant capital infusion of three quarters of a billion dollars, and our partners aligned and fully supportive of what we need to get it done, the sky is the limit for Hulu," he said. Since March, Hulu has been run on an interim basis by former content executive Andy Forssell, who is leaving the company. Forssell stood in for Jason Kilar, the company's CEO since its founding in 2007. Kilar departed in March with former chief technology officer Richard Tom to form a technology startup in San Francisco called The Fremont Project. Hulu has said it's on track to post about \$1 billion in revenue this year, up from \$695 million last year. It had about 4 million subscribers of the \$8-a-month Hulu Plus, as well as 30 million visitors a month to its free service. It also makes money by selling advertising on both free and paid services. Hopkins, who has served on the Hulu board since 2011, was president of distribution for Fox Networks Group, where he oversaw Fox's on-demand and digital offerings including apps such as Fox Now. □

Google's 3Q earnings rise 36%, stock surges

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google's earnings climbed 36 percent despite a deepening slump in its average ad prices as adver-

day exceeded the analyst projections that steer investors. Google's stock surged by more than 6 percent after the numbers came out. Google Inc. earned nearly \$3 billion, or \$8.75 per

share, Google said it would have earned \$10.74 per share. That figure topped the average estimate of \$10.36 per share among analysts polled by FactSet.

ing as much for mobile ads because the screens on smartphones and tablet computers are smaller than on laptop and desktop computers.

As more people rely on mobile devices to connect to the Web, it's driving down Google's average ad price, or "cost per click." In Google's latest quarter, that measure fell 8 percent from last year in the latest quarter. That was worse than the 6 percent year-over-year drop in the previous quarter.

Although Google is getting less money per ad, it's getting paid more frequently as people click on more of the commercial pitches. Google's number of paid clicks soared by 26 percent from last year, an indication that the company's data analysis is doing a good job matching ads with the interests of its services' users. Revenue for the third quarter rose 12 percent from last year to \$14.9 billion. After subtracting commissions paid to Google's ad partners, Google's revenue stood at \$11.9 billion — about \$227 million above analysts' predictions. Google's stock gained \$58.71, or 6.6 percent, to \$947.50 in extended trading. If the stock reacts similarly in Friday's regular trading session, the shares will reach a new all-time high. □



The Google Chrome logo is displayed at a Google event in New York. Google reported quarterly earnings on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

tisers purchase a growing number of cheaper commercial pitches to reach people who connect to its search engine and other services on mobile devices. The results released Thurs-

day exceeded the analyst projections that steer investors. Google's stock surged by more than 6 percent after the numbers came out. Google Inc. earned nearly \$3 billion, or \$8.75 per

share, Google said it would have earned \$10.74 per share. That figure topped the average estimate of \$10.36 per share among analysts polled by FactSet.

Oil falls as relief over US debt deal fades

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) —

The price of oil nearly fell below \$100 a barrel for the first time in more than three months Thursday as relief faded over a U.S. deal to avoid a default on its debts.

U.S. benchmark crude for November delivery slid as low as \$100.03 before recovering a bit to close with a loss of \$1.62, or 1.6 percent, to \$100.67 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil last traded below \$100 a barrel on July 3. Oil gained more than \$1 a day earlier, driven by optimism over the eleventh-hour deal reached by leaders in Congress to

reopen the government through Jan. 15 and increase the U.S. borrowing authority through Feb. 7. The rally lost momentum, however, as investors assessed the impact of the 16-day partial shutdown of the government on the economy and worried that the deal only postpones the debt problem.

"More important for oil markets, S&P estimates that the closure of the government will result in a 0.6% reduction in Q4 GDP growth," wrote Addison Armstrong, senior director of market research at Tradition Energy, in a note to clients. Also helping to push prices low-

er, meanwhile, was the improvement in negotiations on Iran's nuclear program between the Islamic Republic and six world powers. The two sides agreed to meet again in Geneva in early November. Iran's oil exports have dropped substantially over the past years because of U.S.-led economic sanctions, one of the reasons usually cited by analysts for rising oil prices.

Elsewhere, with the regular supply report from the Energy Department postponed this week, traders looked to a report from the industry-funded American Petroleum Institute in-

stead. The API said that U.S. stocks of crude oil rose by 5.9 million barrels last week, about twice the build expected by analysts.

In other markets, Brent crude's December contract, the benchmark used to set prices for international crudes, dropped \$1.20, or 1.1 percent, to \$109.39 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

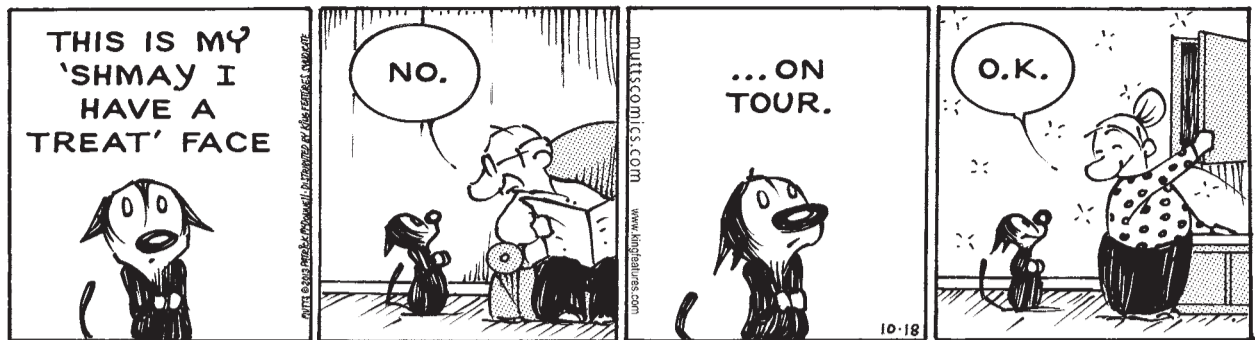
In other energy futures trading on Nymex:

— Wholesale gasoline dropped 5 cents to \$2.65 a gallon.

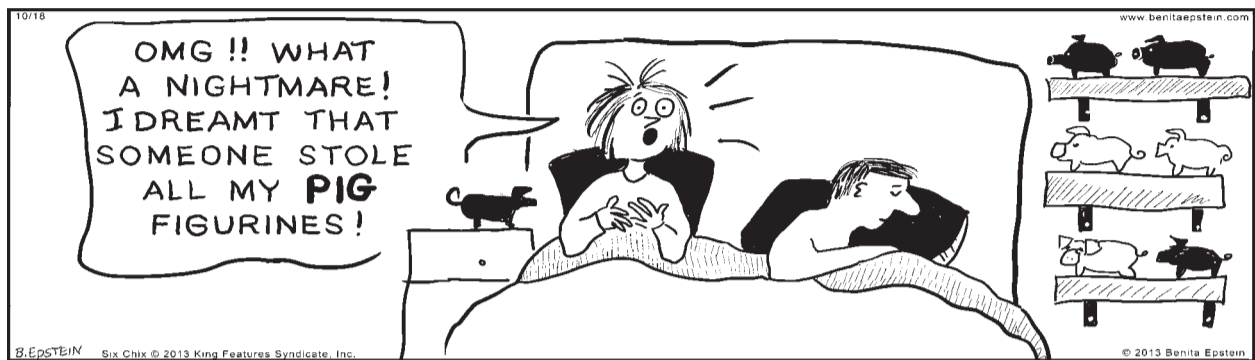
— Natural gas fell 1 cent to \$3.76 per 1,000 cubic feet.

— Heating oil fell 5 cents to \$2.99 a gallon. □

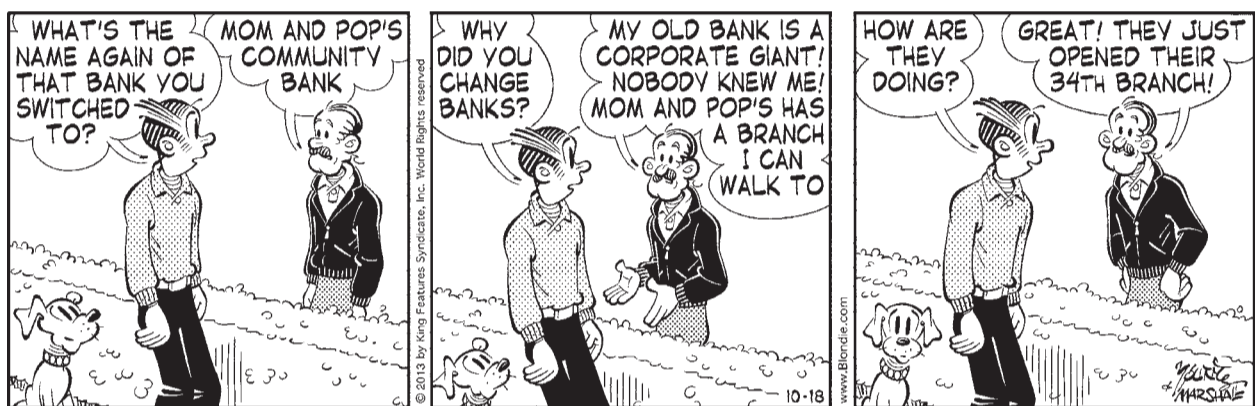
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



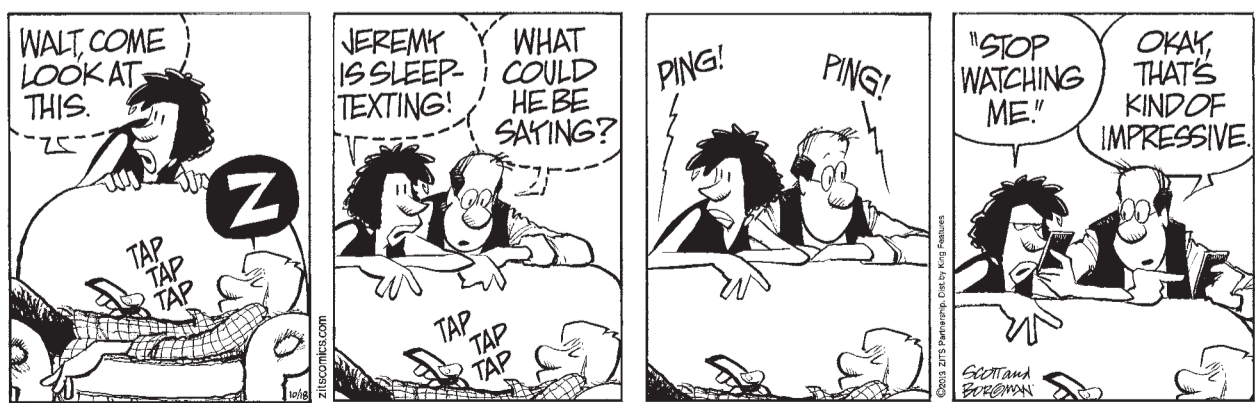
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

								5
	3		6		4			
9			3		2			
	1		9	4			3	
	7						9	
	4			3	5		6	
			4		9			8
			8		7		4	
2								

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	2	5	8	1	6	7	4	9
4	6	8	7	3	9	1	2	5
1	7	9	4	2	5	3	6	8
9	4	7	6	8	3	2	5	1
5	1	6	2	7	4	9	8	3
8	3	2	9	5	1	4	7	6
7	5	1	3	6	2	8	9	4
6	8	4	1	9	7	5	3	2
2	9	3	5	4	8	6	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

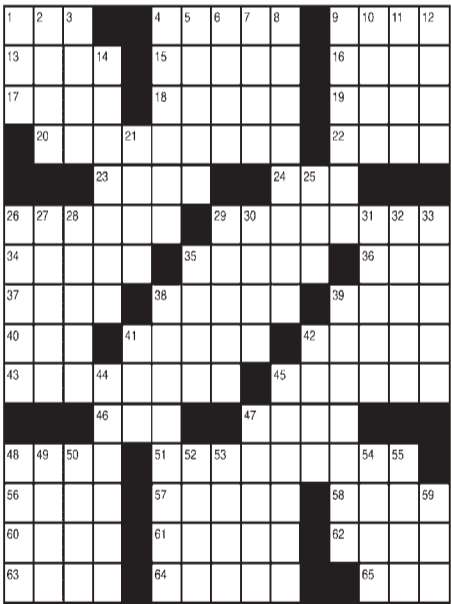
10/17

ACROSS

- 1 Married
- 4 Reason to take Maalox
- 9 Majority
- 13 Door leading to the outside
- 15 Lasso's loop
- 16 Qualified
- 17 away; subtract
- 18 Frolics
- 19 Twelve months
- 20 Glee
- 22 Choir song
- 23 Knocks
- 24 Orangutan or chimpanzee
- 26 In flames
- 29 Endeavors
- 34 oneself; prepare for shocking news
- 35 Derisive smile
- 36 Color
- 37 Chomp down on
- 38 Summoned with a beeper
- 39 "The Ranger"
- 40 Afternoon hour
- 41 Hits the ceiling
- 42 Gave monetary penalties to
- 43 Airport building
- 45 Cuts off
- 46 NBC rival
- 47 Facts & figures
- 48 down the river; betray
- 51 Prudent; recommended
- 56 Bucket
- 57 Poet John
- 58 eyes on; beholds
- 60 High point
- 61 Privileged few
- 62 At any time
- 63 Injection
- 64 Storage towers
- 65 Donkey

DOWN

- 1 Moist
- 2 Test
- 3 Water barrier



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/18/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

4 Not yet juicy and ready to be picked	OWLS	SWANS	MEMO
5 Weaving frames	DRIP	PILOT	OVEN
6 Arrive	DINE	ALIVE	SEAL
7 Sports network	STEWART	EAGERLY	
8 Said again		ITS	ALLAY
9 Chaotic vandalism	SWINE	SRS	TEACH
10 Follow orders	TANG	YET	REDSEA
11 dunk; sure thing	AKA	RECIPES	HAS
12 Harbor bird	CENSUS	COX	TEST
14 Balcony	KNEAD	ALE	CASEY
21 Bulldoze		MELEE	GAB
25 person; apiece	LABORER	PIRANHA	
26 Monastery superior	OBED	AIDED	SOAP
27 Seawater	FLEE	DARED	COLE
28 Procrastinator's word	TEND	SLYLY	ONES
29 Baseball player from Anaheim			
30 off; annoys			
31 T-Mobile store purchase			
32 Piano adjuster			

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10/18/13

- 33 Canary food
- 35 Long tale
- 38 Flapjacks
- 39 Habitable
- 41 Curved bone
- 42 Greek cheese
- 44 Croquet stick
- 45 Talks back to
- 47 "Same for me!"
- 48 Hot tubs
- 49 other; one another
- 50 Star's car
- 52 Sandwich shop
- 53 Colorado resort
- 54 Molten rock
- 55 Peepers
- 59 Yrbk. section

Stumbling blocks in reducing balance on a student loan



Gan Golan of Los Angeles, dressed as the "Master of Degrees," holds a ball and chain representing his college loan debt, during 'Occupy' activities in Washington.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

ANN CARRNS

© 2013 New York Times

You've been working hard and paying your student loans on time, and you find yourself with a bit of extra cash. So you decide that instead of spending it, you'll make an extra loan payment, to whittle down your principal faster and save money on interest. But when you receive your next statement, your loan servicer appears to have merely credited you with an early payment for next month, rather than applying the money to your principal. Difficulties in having payments properly applied to a loan balance are among the most common complaints the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau receives about student loans, according to the bureau's second annual report on the topic. The report, released Wednesday, summarizes roughly 3,800 complaints

received from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30.

The bureau oversees student loans from private lenders, like banks; loans made or guaranteed by the federal government are handled by the Education Department. The bureau estimates that private student loans now total \$165 billion and that about 850,000 private loans were in default as of July 2012. (In comparison, it estimated this summer that federal student loans exceeded \$1 trillion.) But a majority of high-debt borrowers have private loans, according to the bureau. Private loans generally have higher interest rates and lack some consumer protections available with federal loans.

Rohit Chopra, the bureau's student loan ombudsman, cautioned that the report was not based on a representative sample of borrowers. But the report notes that complaints

to the bureau can help show where there is "a mismatch between borrower expectations and

actual service delivered," and that there was a "significant trend" in complaints about confusing or inaccurate payment processing.

Furthermore, while the report focuses on private loans, many of the companies that service those loans, like Sallie Mae, also service federal loans, he said.

A spokeswoman for Sallie Mae, Patricia Christel, said that more than 90 percent of the company's private education loan customers were managing their payments successfully, "and for those experiencing difficulty, we offer customized assistance, including modifications." □

DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dr. Mungra

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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O'STAD: Sta. Anna Tel: 586-8181
S. NICOLAS: Seroe Preto Tel: 584-4833

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INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
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Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
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Narcotics Anonymous

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Study: Good night's sleep cleans out gunk in brain

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When we sleep, our brains get rid of gunk that builds up while we're awake, suggests a study that may provide new clues to treat Alzheimer's disease and other disorders.

This cleaning was detected in the brains of sleeping mice, but scientists said there's reason to think it happens in people too.

If so, the finding may mean that for people with dementia and other mind disorders, "sleep would perhaps be even more important in slowing the progression of further damage," Dr. Clete Kushida, medical director of the Stanford Sleep Medicine Center, said in an email.

Kushida did not participate in the study, which appears in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

People who don't get enough shut-eye have trouble learning and making decisions, and are slower to react. But despite decades of research, scientists can't agree on the basic purpose of sleep. Reasons range from pro-



In this undated photo provided by the University of Rochester Medical Center, Dr. Maiken Nedergaard, left, points to images of brain scans of mice joined by her colleague Lulu Xie, of the University of Rochester Medical Center.

cessing memory, saving energy to regulating the body.

The latest work, led by scientists at the University of Rochester Medical Center, adds fresh evidence to a long-standing view: When we close our eyes, our brains go on a clean-

ing spree.

The team previously found a plumbing network in mouse brains that flushes out cellular waste. For the new study, the scientists injected the brains of mice with beta-amyloid, a substance that builds up in Alzheimer's disease, and

followed its movement. They determined that it was removed faster from the brains of sleeping mice than awake mice.

The team also noticed that brain cells tend to shrink during sleep, which widens the space between the cells. This allows waste

to pass through that space more easily.

Though the work involved mouse brains, lead researcher Dr. Maiken Nedergaard said this plumbing system also exists in dogs and baboons, and it's logical to think that the human brain also clears away toxic substances. Nedergaard said the next step is to look for the process in human brains.

In an accompanying editorial, neuroscientist Suzana Herculano-Houzel of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro said scientists have recently taken a heightened interest in the spaces between brain cells, where junk is flushed out.

It's becoming clearer that "sleep is likely to be a brain state in which several important housekeeping functions take place," she said in an email.

The study was funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. In a statement, program director Jim Koenig said the finding could lead to new approaches for treating a range of brain diseases. □

Associated Press



In this May 2, 2013 file photo, a leatherback turtle heads back to the ocean after burying her eggs in the sand at daybreak on a narrow strip of beach in Grande Riviere, Trinidad.

Associated Press

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The world's largest turtle species built a record number of nests along Puerto Rico's lush coastline this year and 68,000 baby

turtles have hatched, government officials said Thursday.

The announcement comes eight months after the federally endangered leatherback turtle began nesting along the U.S. territory's

Puerto Rico reports record number of turtle nests

coastline, considered one of the top U.S. nesting sites for that species. The 1,390 nests reported this year is the highest number in recent history, according to Carlos Diez, turtle project coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources. He attributed the increase in part to new conservation efforts launched this year, including cordoning off nests, and more volunteers monitoring beaches. But Diez noted that only one out of 1,000 leatherback turtles survive to become an adult.

"It's too low," Diez said. "We have a lot more to do."

Natural resources officials

said that turtles for the first time were favoring new nesting sites instead of traditional locations such as the sister island of Culebra and the northeast coast, which became a protected area earlier this year. "It's something we're investigating," Diez said.

The most popular spots this year were beaches in the northern town of Dorado and the southeastern town of Maunabo, with more than 630 nests alone reported there.

As a result, the Department of Natural Resources is pushing to designate those beaches as possible natural reserves or refuges to prohibit deforestation and

coastal development and help keep Puerto Rico as a top turtle destination.

"Puerto Rico has the highest number of leatherback turtles in the U.S. and is second in the Caribbean after Trinidad and Tobago," said Carmen Guerrero, natural resources secretary.

The turtles arrive to nest every two years,

coming as far away as Canada and northern Europe. They can weigh up to 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) and can measure up to 7 feet (2 meters) long. An estimated 26,000 to 43,000 female turtles nest annually across the world, down from some 115,000 in 1980. □

Live events proving worth for networks

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Television executives are looking for more than hot actors these days. They're searching for the next Nik Wallenda.

With ratings for Wallenda's tightrope walks across Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon in mind, networks are taking meetings from people pitching programs about cars flipping over, or an attempt to set a record for simultaneous skydives. They're all on the hunt for the next big event.

Social media and television's economic system have given rise to a counterintuitive trend: The more opportunities there are for people to watch TV on their own time with DVRs and video on demand, the more valuable programming that can deliver a big live audience has become. It's not just stunts. Live sports, awards shows, singing competitions and the Olympics are all examples of programs that networks consider DVR-proof. "The larger the event, the more buzz-worthy it becomes, the more social it becomes and it breaks through the clutter," said Andy Kubitz, ABC schedul-



In this June 23, 2013 file photo provided by the Discovery Channel, aerialist Nik Wallenda walks a 2-inch-thick steel cable taking him a quarter mile over the Little Colorado River Gorge, Ariz. Television executives are looking for more than hot actors these days. With ratings for Wallenda's tightrope walks across Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon in mind, networks have taken meetings from people wanting to show cars flipping over, or set a record for simultaneous skydiving.

Associated Press

ing chief.

Wallenda's walk across Niagara Falls last year was a Top 10 show that week for ABC. An average of 10.7 million people saw him on a tightrope stretched over the Grand Canyon in June — the most-watched live event in Discovery's history. Watching ruefully from his office was NBC executive Paul Telegdy, whose net-

work partly paid for Wallenda's tightrope. NBC had been planning to air it, but Telegdy said his bosses at the time got cold feet.

"The Voice" and, in particular, the London summer Olympics taught TV executives that social media conversations about programs can create excitement and build a larger audience. That's true of

taped programs, but much more so with live events.

Building a big live event was the idea behind "The Million Second Quiz," which NBC aired over two weeks in September. The competition was live, and viewers were encouraged to play along on their tablets at home. The show was a critical failure and didn't meet NBC's commercial expect-

tations, but it still reached more people than the reruns that would otherwise be shown. Telegdy said it's important to take such risks, as NBC will do over the holidays with a live production of "The Sound of Music."

"If somebody has a big, crazy and ambitious idea, they're going to call me before they call other places," he said.

Networks love programming that makes news — a stumbling celebrity on "Dancing With the Stars" or cringe-worthy audition on "American Idol" — to create the aura that people who don't watch live are missing something.

Awards shows are dependable draws, even more so in recent years. Networks try to stretch the experience by making red carpet shows or, in the case of the Grammys, a performance show built around the announcement of nominees. Sports are becoming more visible in prime-time. NBC's fall schedule flows from its Sunday night NFL game. Saturday night, once the outpost for reruns or "America's Most Wanted" on Fox, is now dominated by football games. Fox is looking forward to airing World Cup soccer. □

Brad Garrett book scheduled for 2015

NEW YORK (AP) — Brad Garrett is trying to make peace with middle age. The comic and Emmy-winning actor from "Everybody Loves Raymond" has a deal with Gallery Books for the memoir "When the Balls Drop: How I Learned to Give Up, Stop Trying, and Enjoy Life's Second Half." Gallery, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced Thursday that the book is scheduled for 2015. Garrett, 53, also plans to base a TV show on his memoir, according to Gallery. His many film and TV credits include "Finding Nemo," "Seinfeld" and "Night at the Museum." □



In this Jan. 10, 2013 file photo, Brad Garrett attends the Disney ABC Winter TCA Tour at the Langham Huntington Hotel, in Pasadena, Calif. Associated Press

Tenor Andrea Bocelli to receive master's next week

NEW YORK (AP) — Andrea Bocelli will receive a graduate degree in Italy next week.

The 55-year-old tenor says he'll receive a master's degree in vocal performance from The Conservatory of Music, Giacomo Puccini in La Spezia, Italy, on Tuesday.

Bocelli will present his thesis, titled "The Value and Meaning of Opera Singing at the Beginning of the Third Millennium," later this month. The 70-page dissertation includes contributions from Placido Domingo.

He'll also release a CD/



In this Sept. 16, 2011 file photo, Andrea Bocelli performs a free outdoor concert on Central Park's Great Lawn, in New York.

Associated Press

DVD, "Love in Portofino," on Tuesday. The renowned performer has sold 80 mil-

lion albums internationally. Bocelli has a law degree from the University of Pisa. □

Diablo Cody brings complex women to life onscreen

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Diablo Cody's real life story almost sounds like a movie she might write: A dynamic young woman with a unique voice wins an Oscar for her first screenplay, is at once embraced and vilified by the media, and then emerges with more opportunities and greater self-assurance than before. Today, though, Cody is apologetic, and a tad frazzled. She arrives 45 minutes late for an interview, having thought it was the next day. The 35-year-old bounds into a nondescript tavern down the street from Universal Studios for happy hour, fresh faced in a Grateful Dead T-shirt and jeans, her red bob still slightly damp from the shower. She hugs the reporter she's meeting for the first time and offers a string of sorrys.

"I'm a Midwesterner," she says. "This kind of tardiness is unacceptable."

Very un-celebrity-like, Cody arrives without a publicist or assistant, since she has neither, and settles



In this Thursday, Oct. 10, 2013 photo, writer Diablo Cody of the film "Paradise" poses for a portrait at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

onto a barstool to discuss her directorial debut, "Paradise," which is in theaters Friday.

After a Hollywood crash course that began with her best screenplay Oscar for 2007's "Juno" and continued with a TV deal with Steven Spielberg and two more movies, it was time to try directing. Her challenge, like that of her pro-

tagonist in "Paradise": To discover her central character.

"I want to believe that you can maintain your essential core and hang onto your innocence in a way — even if your body is burned, even if you get pregnant as a teenager, even if you're a stripper, even if you win an Oscar with your first screenplay," she

said, referring to personal experiences. "I feel like human beings have a pretty amazing, resilient spirit and you can get through a lot of (stuff) and become the best version of yourself."

After Cody captivated Hollywood with "Juno," people pressed her to direct, but she wasn't driven to try it. She'd never made a short film or helmed an episode of the TV show she created, "United States of Tara." She didn't feel she had to.

"I've worked with directors who were really respectful of my scripts and who involved me in the filmmaking process, so I used to say I had a good racket going," she said. "All I had to do was write the script, and then I got to sit back and take credit for these amazing films."

But, "this was my fourth feature I'm getting made — I'm very lucky — and at this point, I almost felt like I was avoiding it (directing)."

"Paradise," which she also wrote, stars Julianne Hough as Lamb Mannerheim, a small-town religious girl whose faith is challenged

after a disfiguring accident leaves her covered with burn scars. Lamb sets out to experience all she's been sheltered from, so she heads to Las Vegas, where she meets a pair of nightclub workers (Octavia Spencer and Russell Brand), who accompany her as she checks off a list of "sins" such as drinking, gambling and dancing.

Making the film coincided with Cody's second pregnancy, which compounded an already challenging task. "I don't recommend it," she said, though it does make the filmmaking/giving-birth comparison particularly apt.

"During pre-production, I was in my first trimester. During the shoot, I was in my second and then during post, I was in my third," she said. "Then I had the baby and delivered the movie. ... The metaphor is so on the nose that it's almost lame." She's grateful for the opportunity and experience, but found directing only reaffirmed her love of writing. "I'm not thinking about what's the next thing I'm going to direct," she said.

Veteran character actor Ed Lauter dies at age 74



In this Nov. 1, 2012 file photo, Ed Lauter attends the "Hitchcock" gala screening as part of AFI Fest in Los Angeles on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012.

Associated Press

JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Veteran character actor Ed Lauter, whose long, angular face and stern bearing made him an instantly recognizable figure in scores of movies and TV shows during a career that stretched across five decades, died

Wednesday. He was 74.

Lauter died of mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer most commonly caused by asbestos exposure, said his publicist, Edward Lozzi.

Whether he was an irascible authority figure, a brutal thug or a conniving con man, Lauter's presence made him all but impos-

sible to miss in any film he was in. That was so even on those occasions when he was playing a character more bumbling than menacing, although menacing was clearly his forte.

He was the brutal prison guard who was Burt Reynolds' nemesis in the 1974 comedy-drama "The Longest Yard" and the sleazy gas station attendant in Alfred Hitchcock's last film, "The Family Plot." In "Death Wish 3," he was the violent cop who teams with Charles Bronson's vigilante to rid New York City's streets of criminals, not by incarcerating them but by killing them.

More recently he was the butler to Berenice Bejo's French ingenue in the 2011 Oscar-winning film "The Artist."

Lauter described himself in a 2010 interview with Cinema Shock magazine as a

"turn" actor, someone who shows up at some point in the film and suddenly turns the plot in a different direction.

He credited the cast of real-life characters he grew up observing in his native Long Beach, New York, as inspiring many of the characters he would go on to portray.

He laughed at being someone frequently recognized in public for his roles.

"But sometimes people don't know my name," he said. "They'll say, 'Oh, yeah! There's that guy! You were in ... you were in ...'"

He was in "Trouble With the Curve" in 2011 with Clint Eastwood and in "Born on the Fourth of July" with Tom Cruise. He was also in "The New Centurions" with George C. Scott and in "My Blue Heaven," "Revenge of the Nerds 2" and "Not Another Teenage Movie,"

among many other films.

TV appearances included "The Office," "ER," "Murder, She Wrote" and "The Rockford Files."

Among his favorite roles, he said in 2010, was "The Longest Yard."

He recalled that director Robert Aldrich told him he didn't have to read for the part but would have to accompany Aldrich to a nearby park so the director could ensure that he could throw a football like a quarterback would. When he hit former NFL receiver Pat Studstill, who was a stuntman in the movie, right in his jersey number with the first pass, Lauter said Aldrich told him he had the job.

Lauter, who continued to work until a few months ago, had completed roles in several films still to be released.

He is survived by his wife, Mia, and four children. □

Pope Trumps President



MAUREEN DOWD

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WASHINGTON - I'd heard about a medical malady you can get from watching too much cable news. You start feeling jittery and apprehensive about the future. But I'd never experienced it until a recent night, when I had to turn off the rant-around-the-clock shows reporting on political vandals vitiating the good name of a country they claim to love, scrapping in the weeds over nothing while dancing on the precipice of an international financial collapse.

I flipped around and paused at ABC's "Scandal."

I'd never gotten into "Scandal" because it seemed too outlandishly over-the-top, a silly sex-and-murder-fueled Washington soap opera. Shonda Rhimes took the story of Judy Smith, a deputy press secretary for Poppy Bush who became a crisis manager, and melded it with the story of Smith's most famous client, Monica Lewinsky.

Rhimes, who became wealthy by never underestimating the appetite of the American public for devilish, dervish plots, cut out the middleman - or middlewoman - and made the crisis manager the president's mistress.

I was about to keep flipping when I saw something soothing on "Scandal" that I had not seen in Washington in eons: acidic adversaries working together on a seeming Gordian knot and quickly settling on a compromise.

Suddenly, compared with the incredible, insane, illogical cliffhangers in the actual D.C., the ones in Rhimes' D.C. seem quite credible.

Kerry Washington's Olivia Pope, unmasked by The Washington Post at the end of last season as the president's girlfriend, opens her safe and takes out a folder with a code.

"The most infamous woman in America," as she's known, uses the "fire-alarm" password that her commander-in-chief lover, had given her in case of a terrorist, chemical or nuclear attack. With that code, she's able to lure President Fitzgerald Grant and the first lady, Mellie, into the White House bunker. Once the unholy trinity is gathered, Olivia, wearing a killer white Burberry trench coat that signals her pursuit of "white hat" justice, demands that they hammer out a deal to save their reputations. "We have a job to do here, and in order for me to do my part effectively," Olivia icily tells the manipulative Mellie, "I'm going to need you to refrain from

referring to me as a whore - at least in front of my face."

That's the kind of dialogue I used to find irritatingly purple. But, suddenly, it sounded refreshingly sensible.

Why hadn't President Barack Obama used a pretext to lure John Boehner, Ted Cruz and Harry Reid to the White House, locked them in a bunker and kept them there until they hammered out a deal to save America's reputation?

If Olivia can trust her president, who killed a Supreme Court justice and sicced a military officer to spy on her, and he can trust her, after she rigged voting machines to get him elected, surely the real players here can summon up some trust.

We now find ourselves plunged into a surreal, sensationalized, sordid world where a demonstrator waves a Confederate flag at the White House and Larry Klayman tells Obama "to put the Quran down"; where Ted Cruz and Sarah Palin, after goading Tea Party pols to close down the government, go to a rally at the World War II memorial to express outrage that the government is closed down.

Ignoring the fact that it's her beloved Tea Party dragging the country to ruin, Palin suggested on Facebook that if the country defaults on its debt, Obama is risking impeachment.

House Republicans sang "Amazing Grace" at the start of their Tuesday kamikaze meeting, but they're amazing only for their lack of grace.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., who survived a hooker scandal, came up with an atrocious plan to squeeze Capitol Hill staffers - who are often working hard for petty tyrants - and make them pay the full cost of their health care premiums, which few big companies do.

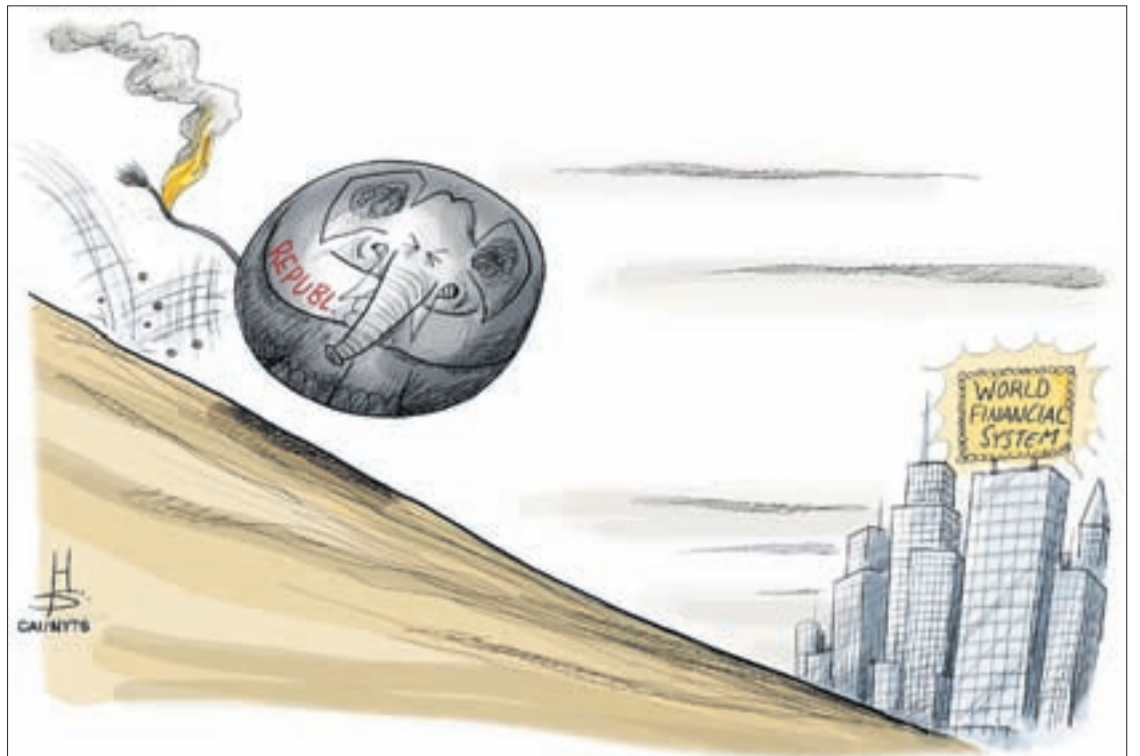
One resentful House Republican staffer emailed The New Yorker's Ryan Lizza about the proposed Vitter amendment: "If they hate Congress," he said of the public, "imagine working for it."

Compared with our implausible theater of the absurd, it seems quite plausible to see President Grant slugging back Scotch in the Oval Office and chatting with his evangelical vice president about her cheating husband.

Liv Pope is appealingly relentless and brass-knuckled compared to Obama. Her mantras are, after all, "It's handled," and "I'm never out of options."

David Axelrod admitted to The Boston Globe's Matt Viser that the Obama team should have involved Obama more in interacting with Capitol Hill from the beginning, so the aloof president who breezed through the Senate could learn how the velvet-and-vice game is played. Instead, negotiating with the Hill was outsourced to Rahm Emanuel, who makes Pope seem like a defeatist. "If I rethink it," Axelrod said, "maybe we were too reliant on Rahm and should have engaged the president more in those early months and years."

When the ship of state turns into the ship of fools, we all sink. □



This Is Your Brain On Toxins



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

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"Lead helps to guard your health."

That was the marketing line that the former National Lead Co. used decades ago to sell lead-based household paints. Yet we now know that lead was poisoning millions of children and permanently damaging their brains. Tens of thousands of children died, and countless millions were left mentally impaired.

One boy, Sam, born in Milwaukee in 1990, "thrived as a baby," according to his medical record. But then, as a toddler, he began to chew on lead paint or suck on fingers with lead dust, and his blood showed soaring lead levels.

Sam's family moved homes, but it was no use. At age 3, he was hospitalized for five days because of lead poisoning, and in kindergarten his teachers noticed that he had speech problems. He struggled through school, and doctors concluded that he had "permanent and irreversible" deficiencies in brain function.

Sam's story appears in "Lead Wars," a book by Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner published this year that chronicles the monstrous irresponsibility of companies in the lead industry over the course of the 20th century. Eventually, over industry protests, came regulation and the removal of lead from gasoline. As a result, lead levels of U.S. children have

declined 90 percent in the past few decades, and scholars have estimated that, as a result, children's IQs on average have risen at least two points and perhaps more than four.

So what are the lessons from the human catastrophe of lead poisoning over so many decades? To me, today's version of the lead industry is the chemical industry - companies like Exxon Mobil, DuPont, BASF and Dow Chemical - over the years churning out endocrine-disruptor chemicals that mimic the body's hormones. Endocrine disruptors are found in everything from plastics to pesticides, toys to cosmetics, and there are growing concerns about their safety.

The Endocrine Society, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the European Society of Pediatric Endocrinology and the President's Cancer Panel have all warned about endocrine disruptors - also referred to as EDC's, for endocrine disrupting chemicals. The World Health Organization and United Nations this year concluded: "Exposure to EDC's during fetal development and puberty plays a role in the increased incidences of reproductive diseases, endocrine-related cancers, behavioral and learning problems, including ADHD, infections, asthma, and perhaps obesity and diabetes in humans." Alarm about endocrine disruptors once was a fringe scientific concern but increasingly has moved mainstream. There is still uncertainty and debate about the risk posed by individual chemicals, but there is growing concern about the risk of endocrine disruptors in general - particularly to fetuses and children. There is less concern about adults. Scientists are also debating whether the old toxicological models are appropriate for chemicals that mimic hormones and thus may trigger bodily changes, especially in fetuses and children. These are the kinds of threats that we in journalism are not very good at covering. We did a wretched job covering risks from lead and tobacco in the early years; instead of watchdogs, we

were lap dogs.

One common thread is industry's greed, duplicity and powerful lobbying in Washington and around the country. The chemical industry spent \$55 million lobbying last year, twice the figure a decade earlier, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

The Chicago Tribune last year documented how the chemical industry created a fake movement for flame retardants in furniture, supposedly to prevent fires; in fact, flame retardants don't reduce fires but do contain endocrine disruptors that may be harmful to our children.

This summer 18 scientists wrote a scathing letter railing against European Union regulations of endocrine disruptors. That underscored the genuine scientific uncertainty about risks - until Environmental Health News showed that 17 of the 18 have conflicts of interest, such as receiving money from the chemical industry. Meanwhile, more than 140 other scientists followed up with their own open letters denouncing the original 18 and warning that endocrine disruptors do indeed constitute a risk.

Andrea C. Gore, the editor of Endocrinology, published an editorial asserting that corporate interests are abusing science today with endocrine disruptors the way they once did with lead: for the "production of uncertainty." She added that the evidence is "undeniable: that endocrine-disrupting chemicals pose a threat to human health."

When scientists feud, it's hard for the rest of us to know what to do. But I'm struck that many experts in endocrinology, toxicology or pediatrics aren't waiting for regulatory changes. They don't heat food in plastic containers, they reduce their use of plastic water bottles, and they try to give their kids organic food to reduce exposure to pesticides.

So a question for big chemical companies: Are you really going to follow the model of tobacco and lead and fight regulation every step of the way, once more risking our children's futures? □

Catalan business leaders wary of Spain secession

RAPHAEL MINDER

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SANT SADURNÍ D'ANOIA,

Spain - Sparkling Cava wine has become an emblem of Catalonia as one of the strongest exports from Spain's northeastern region. Over the past decade, annual shipments of cava have climbed about 50 percent, to 161 million bottles.

Which is why cava's producers show no desire to embrace the Catalan secessionist drive that is posing a serious challenge to Spain's central government, led by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

Toni de la Rosa Torelló, whose family has owned its winemaking estate since 1395, said that "making the most representative product of Catalonia does not mean we want to be represented in this political debate."

José Luis Bonet Ferrer, the president of Freixenet, the largest producer of cava, said, "Businessmen have the right to worry if politicians create tensions rather than seek dialogue."

The attitude of such Catalan executives matters because a key premise in the secessionist argument is that Catalonia, which accounts for almost a fifth of Spain's economic output, would flourish economically if it broke ties with the rest of the economically lagging nation. Some businesspeople are not so certain.

It is not just the cava vintners saying this, but also executives from the spectrum of industries that make up Catalonia's 200 billion euro economy, roughly equivalent to that of Portugal.

The region blends a powerful financial-services sector, led by the big bank La Caixa, with a strong industrial base that includes traditional sectors like car manufacturing as well as scientific research and medical technology.

This week the Catalan regional government, led by Artur Mas, quantified exactly what it thought the central government owed Catalonia, in terms of insuf-

ficient investments and fiscal disadvantages: 9.4 billion euros, including 5.8 billion euros of infrastructure spending.

In response, the central government said Wednesday that it would soon publish its own set of figures to dismantle the Catalan claim that the region's contribution to the national economy and its tax revenue is far more than what it gets back from Madrid.

But with Spain expected to post economic data for the third quarter showing that it has finally emerged from a two-year recession - its second downturn since 2008 - Catalan businesspeople say they worry less about what Mas thinks Madrid owes his region and more about whether political instability could hamper Spain's prospects of returning to precrisis growth levels. "In any diverse society, there are different points of view, but it's clear entrepreneurs prefer to operate in a context of certainty," said Salvador Alemany, chairman of Abertis, which is based in the Catalan capital, Barcelona, and which is one of Europe's biggest operators of toll roads and airports. "Consensus is always better than conflict."

Still, there has been little



Seasonal workers from the south of Spain harvest grapes for Freixenet in the Catalonia region of Spain.

(Arnau Bach/The New York Times)

sign of consensus of late. In September, hundreds of thousands of pro-independence people joined hands to form a human chain across Catalonia. After that show of force, Mas said Catalonia would forge ahead with plans to hold a referendum on independence next year, despite Madrid's warning that such a vote would violate Spanish law.

Rajoy recently called on Mas to show "magnanimity" and drop the referendum plan. Mas responded that it was instead for Rajoy to be magnanimous and give Catalans the right to

vote.

Catalans have long defended their ancestral culture and language. But secessionism shifted from fringe to mainstream political thinking a little more than a year ago after Mas failed to convince Rajoy that Catalonia should be allowed to reduce its contribution to a fiscal system that redistributes part of the tax revenues to other, poorer regions of Spain. Catalonia's 7.5 million inhabitants represent 16 percent of the Spanish population.

But Catalonia has also benefited from being part

of greater Spain. For example, it was the 1992 Olympics - in part financed by the Madrid government - that helped transform Barcelona into one of Europe's most visited cities, with more than 7 million tourists a year, compared with 1 million before.

Some Catalan executives have clearly embraced secessionism, particularly members of the 100-strong business association called FemCAT, set up to help Catalonia "take its place on the world and European stage," according to its 2004 founding manifesto.

"We can construct a much better economic model for Catalonia than the one that has been imposed on us from Madrid," said Jordi Bagó i Mons, a member of FemCAT who is chief executive of Serhs, a provider of hotel catering and other tourism services.

But most of the Catalan business community has yet to declare a formal position in the independence debate.

Antoni Abad i Pous, president of Cecot, an association that represents about 8,000 Catalan businesses, deplored the shortfall in Catalan infrastructure spending by Madrid. He said that "97 percent of our members want the current relationship with Spain to be changed, but that doesn't necessarily mean independence." □



Jose Luis Bonet Ferrer, president of Freixenet, takes a call in front of the main entrance of the sparkling wine maker in Sant Sadurní d'Anoia, Spain, Oct. 3, 2013. Ferrer and many others in the Catalan business community are skeptical that Catalonia would thrive if the region secedes from Spain.

(Arnau Bach/The New York Times)